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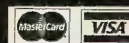
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SOLOIER OF FORTUNE MAGAZINE

Support Our Troops!

JANUARY 2005 ✕ VOL. 30 NO. 1

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U.S. Army photo by PVT Jennifer J. Eidson

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SFC Johancharles Van Boers



General Dynamics



Gary Paul Johnston

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# RUNNING RECON by Frank Greco

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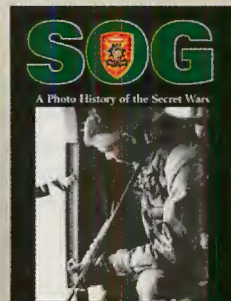
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# SOG

## A PHOTO HISTORY OF THE SECRET WARS

by John L. Plaster

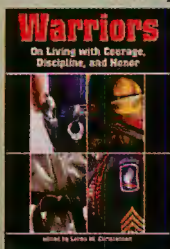
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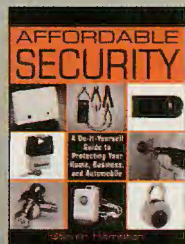


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Vol. 1: United States Patents  
*by N.R. Parker;*  
*foreword by Al Paulson*

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*with Van Ritch*

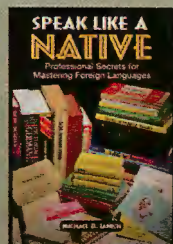
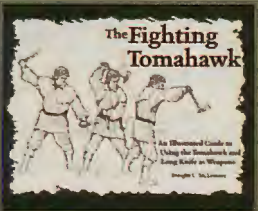
Did you know that during conversation, 60 to 90 percent of all communication is done through body language?

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### SPEAK LIKE A NATIVE

Professional Secrets for Mastering Foreign Languages  
*by Michael D. Janich*

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*by A.G. Hawke*

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# COMMAND GUIDANCE

BY ROBERT K. BROWN

Since so many of our loyal readers are local, state and federal law enforcement officials, I thought it entirely appropriate to focus on one of the most important pieces of legislation to come out of the recent Congress which will significantly upgrade our security capabilities both regarding the terrorist threat and evil doers in general. We owe a debt of thanks to Jim Fotis and LEAA. If you're not a member, you should be. Check out: [www.LEAA.org](http://www.LEAA.org). We all owe them a big one!

—Robert K. Brown

## PRESIDENT BUSH SIGNS HISTORIC NATIONAL CONCEALED CARRY FOR COPS INTO LAW

*New law will arm nearly 1.5 million off duty and retired officers*

Washington D.C.— The Law Enforcement Alliance of America (LEAA) joined with other national law enforcement leaders at the White House to witness President Bush signing the historic 'National Concealed Carry for Cops' into law.

The signature by President Bush closes a 12 year long effort by LEAA and Congressman Randy "Duke" Cunningham (R-CA) to save cops' lives and protect our communities. First proposed by LEAA in 1992, this law will allow qualified off duty and retired law enforcement officers to carry concealed firearms in all 50 states.

LEAA Executive Director and retired New York police officer James J. Fotis said, "President Bush took a historic step in advancing homeland security and public safety by signing the National Concealed Carry for Cops law." Privately, when conferring with the President after the signing, LEAA and the President agreed that this new law would save lives.

The law had become the number one legislative priority of America's rank and file police officers and is also backed by nearly every national organization representing rank and file law enforcement officers.

Many members of the pro-Second Amendment community properly recognize this new law as the single biggest legislative gain in the effort to expand "Right-to-Carry." Said Fotis, "Under this new law, off duty and retired officers will be carrying their firearms, in effect, as 'civilians;' they won't be out patrolling and making arrests. These folks will use their firearms to defend themselves and others from violent attacks — exactly the same way that armed civilians employ their concealed guns in the nearly 40 states that allow honest, law-abiding civilians to carry concealed."

LEAA points out for the record, that while President George Bush has unequivocally demonstrated his support of Law Enforcement, including his action on H.R. 218, Senator John Kerry the campaign trail, to return to the Senate to vote against this bill, ignoring the wishes of the law enforcement community. He voted to kill the Senate version of H.R. 218 by voting for 'poison pill' amendments.

*With more than 75,000 Members and supporters, Law Enforcement Alliance of America is the nation's largest coalition of law enforcement, crime victims, and concerned citizens dedicated to making America safer. ✕*

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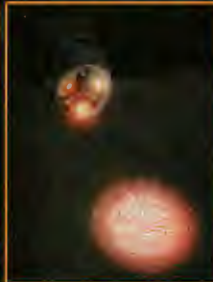
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## Politically Correct— Or Politically Expedient?

It has recently become “politically correct” to use the term “undocumented immigrants.” What is really meant is “persons who criminally enter the USA” — persons who have no regard for our laws upon entry; Persons who continue to violate our laws by their continual presence here, violations of our money transfer laws, and most importantly the theft of the valued USA residency, theft of the services of our public schools, public medical services, overcrowded jail/prison space (in numbers disproportional to the general population) and even the misuse and dilution of true citizens’ votes by illegal participation in our elections!

Even these crimes are too often overshadowed by many illegal “immigrants” arriving here with the intent to do us physical harm by illegal drug dealing and other forms of terrorism.

Such persons, especially not arriving at designated entry points, should be declared (as a military emergency measure) beyond the protections of our Constitution and Laws and subject, at our borders, as invaders, to be repulsed by our police, military and the “general militia” (The body of all armed, USA citizens).

Sincerely,  
James Pawlak

## Infiltrators Not Welcome

I have read how in the end the Roman Empire no longer defended it's borders. I am concerned. Lets piss of the P.C.

crowd, not send border state national guard to Iraq, but to the borders. Under the militia clause of the constitution the guard can enforce the laws of union, and repel an invasion: Let's do that ... Lay mines, build walls and put up no-trespassing signs. We still probably wouldn't stop all of them, but maybe enough would reconsider.

Loyal Reader  
Dave DeVault

## Immigrants Welcome

Special Forces was largely built on immigrants from Eastern Europe, under the Lodge Act, which allowed them to gain citizenship early. We also used to draft [legal] aliens who dropped out of college here. I was in the hospital with a kid, a Dane, who was a 173d LRRP. He dropped out for a semester and got drafted. He had a choice of breaking U.S. law and dodging the draft or breaking Danish law and serving in a foreign army. He decided to just stay here.

I also once ran a Hungarian lion tamer through basic. Isn't that bizarre, that we would draft a guy from Eastern Europe during the Cold War?

Jim Morris

## Mixed Signals

It's great that as an Army Reservist who returned from Iraq, my commander in chief brought up the danger in mixed

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signals. I can't help but think of mixed signals when embezzlers convicted in Jordan, like Ahmed Chalabi, are given leadership positions in Iraq and sit next to Laura Bush at the State of the Union. I can't help think of mixed signals when we are told the American government is ready to support the troops but sends us to Iraq in April 2003 with substandard body armor. It damages our credibility when we speak of helping the Iraqi people, then our civilian leadership at the Coalition Provisional Authority in Baghdad seek to privatize Iraqi industries and cut food subsidies to the poor all the meanwhile violating the Geneva and Hague Conventions to which we are signatories: Conventions that give our troops moral ammunition. It's about time we talk about mixed signals that our current leader sent to the world and our troops.

Omar Masry  
Thousand Oaks, Calif.

## Hot Air Is Not a Draft

I want to thank you for such a great mag. You do more with your great articles than you think. I've been reading lots of articles in newspapers and mags about how low the numbers (soldiers) are in Iraq and about this "new draft." I don't understand were they get this. My unit is in Ba'a'qubah right now and it's a pretty busy city and far larger than what we are supposed to be able to control according to the stats. But we have been doing a great job, in fact most of the time our chain of command has BS missions for us just to keep us busy. So that's were I get confused. Do we or don't we need a draft.

Via e-mail

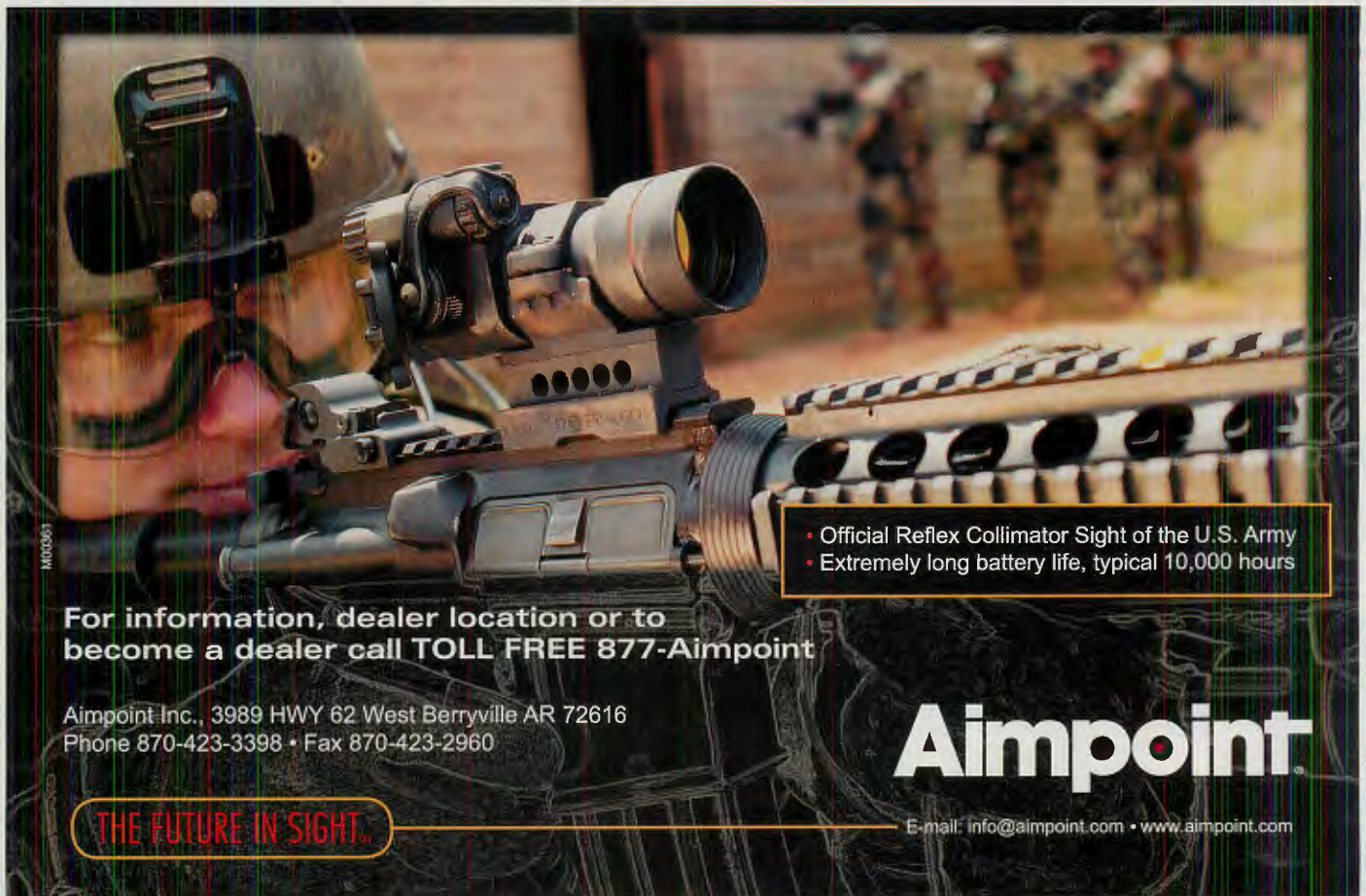
*With the op tempo up, reenlistments are down in some units, but the specter of a draft, I think, was a red-herring — a non-issue raised by politicians hoping to scare some potential draft-dodgers into voting for them.*

## You Flatter Us...

Today 8 August 2004, I just picked up the magazine and so far it looks good, I like your Marine Corps Unit reports, as a honorably discharged Marine Corps Reservist, whom God placed in what I consider the last part of the Cold War- before the "wall" came tumbling down, I find it refreshing to get some true information as in past issues rather than the liberal, anti-military media spin on the political war rather than as you report the "actual" war situation. After scanning the tank story, why are we paying Canada millions for a "tank," would not we be better off keeping our own citizens employed? As a Marine I enjoyed your articles on the Marine snipers on the road to Baghdad and Gunny H. Thank you for providing this magazine to those of us who do not like the spoon-fed stuff of the mainstream media.

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*SOF solicits your letters by e-mail: [editor@sofmag.com](mailto:editor@sofmag.com) ; snail-mail: 5735 E. Arapahoe, Unit 5A, Boulder, CO 80303; or Fax: 303-444-5617. Lashes, laurels, comments, helpful information, questions are welcome. We may edit for space or clarity, and if two letters cover the same subject, the most concise one has the edge for publication. Visit our web site: [www.sofmag.com](http://www.sofmag.com) .*



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superior outerwear value! Details include 4-snap down patch pockets with side entry hand warmer pockets and 2-interior pockets. Heavy duty front zipper and snap closure placket, Velcro-snap closure stand collar and adjustable Velcro-closure cuffs, snap down epaulets, and bi-swing back for freedom of movement. Removable quilted liner in body and sleeves. Hidden drawstring at waist and bottom to keep body warm, dry, and comfortable.

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# BULLETIN BOARD

## *You're at Wal-Mart Anyway, Right?*

Next time you are in Wal-Mart wondering what you should pick up for your next C.A.R.E. package to your favorite service person in the sandbox, consider these items from a Leatherneck's wish list forwarded to us by John Farnam:

White socks  
Dry lube (Hoppe's, Outer's, Remington)  
9mm and .223 Boresnake  
Beretta OEM 92F normal-capacity magazines  
Multitools (Gerber 600, Leatherman, SOG, Buck)  
Surefire flashlights  
LED "soft" lights  
Fixed and folding knives by Cold Steel, Emerson, Ka-Bar, Camillus, and Buck.

Don't have a favorite Leatherneck to send to? Send 'em here and he'll see they get to the hands that need 'em:

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## *Help in Finding Billets*

Military personnel being moved due to a PCS, or relocating family while deployed, can go to Rent.com to find off-Base Apartment Housing. The service by Rent.com is free, and if you end up signing a lease with one of their clients, they rebate you a \$100 cash bonus. Their advanced search technology makes finding, and reviewing, more than 4.1 million possible rentals very easy. Contact them by email to [info@rent.com](mailto:info@rent.com) or call 1-866-441-RENT, or visit their web site [www.Rent.com](http://www.Rent.com).

## *Help in Finding Bullets*

With ammo requirements expected to hit 1.7 billion rounds next year, the Army is looking for a prime contractor



*Snipers from Scotland's Black Watch Company stand for a group photo with their Accuracy International rifles in Basra, Iraq.*

U.S. Army by SSG Christopher J. Crawford

to manage large-quantity buys of ammo, primarily .223, 7.62x51 and .50 BMG. The slack has been taken up in recent years by short-term contracts with Olin Winchester and IMI. Lake City ammo plant has cranked out some 1.2 billions rounds of late – but that won't be enough for anticipated demands. Time to crank up your old Lee Loader and give 'em a call!

## *\$30 Million Worth of Smack Seized*

Lt. Gen. Mieczyslaw Bieniek, former commander of the Polish-led contingent of coalition troops in Iraq, said their forces seized some \$30 million worth of heroin intended for sale on Iraqi streets by rebel "cleric" Muqtada al-Sadr's militia. Gen. Bieniek noted that the drug trade was so pervasive that al Sadr's men were known as the "pink army" for the red plastic bags they use to peddle the drugs. Military reports from southern Iraq, as well as U.S. State Department and Iraqi officials, have said militants were also using and distributing crank in Najaf and Baghdad.

*Well, a Bear just wouldn't have looked right. Thanks to an anonymous correspondent for forwarding this, of a former-Soviet Mi-24 presently plying its trade in Afghanistan, but in new colors. No need to ask whose side this bird is on now!*



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 and <http://www.va.gov/vbs/health/>

## Database On All, U.S. National ID Card?

In a move many regard as frightening, the U.S. House of Representatives is considering HR 10, an ill-advised bill that would

- Create a massive government database containing personal information on every American man, woman and child;
- Standardize (i.e., nationalize) the process of issuing driver's licenses — thereby taking the final step toward creating a national ID card; and
- Set up a system whereby any employer or industry identified by the Attorney General would have to submit employment applicants to the government for approval — complete with fingerprints or other "biometric identifiers."

This is a piece of legislation that could be terribly abusive in the wrong hands. For further information, go to: <http://www.gunowners.org> . ☒



"Living Free" and "Redneck" are included in this production that 17 year Nashville Veteran Ray Cornelius calls "kick butt" music. Cornelius performs at Vietnam Vet rallies.

[www.raycornelius.com](http://www.raycornelius.com)

## Remembering Saddam

Frequent SOF contributor and veteran journalist Don North was an imbed with the 101st Airborne during Operation Iraqi Freedom, reporting for NPR and Canadian CTV. After the fall of Baghdad one of his projects was an outstanding film that documents the brutality and torture at Abu Ghraib by Saddam's henchmen — nine people who crossed Saddam and lived, although not always bodily intact, to tell their story.

This excellent documentary is available in DVD format at [www.RememberingSaddam.com](http://www.RememberingSaddam.com) or by phone order at 800-650-3776. To book an interview, call North at 703-293-9212.

## House Inquires of Sky Marshals

According to the *Washington Times*, The House Judiciary Committee has initiated a congressional inquiry of the Federal Air Marshal Service as to what flights are protected and whether its undercover agents being exposed by a dress code that identifies them.

"Lawmakers want to know if the dress code, which in some offices mandate suits or sport coats on all flights, is harmful in identifying the undercover agent. One team of marshals covering a Southwest Airlines flight out of Columbus, Ohio, was pulled from protecting a plane during a high-alert period because they were not wearing sports jackets. The committee asked for reports of all disciplinary action against agents for not adhering to the dress code" the *Times* reported.

Other issues of concern were reports that air marshals are required to stay in certain designated hotels and identify themselves specifically as federal air marshals to get a discount, not just as government agents, and how reports of incidents resembling terrorist probes have been handled, and the suitability of .357 SIG for a mission where over-penetration can be problematic.



Operation Enduring Freedom sees almost daily attacks on supply convoys, and the Army has asked Congress to pony up some \$8 billion for mods and repairs that change the nature of existing vehicles, and another \$200 million to buy almost 700 ASVs (Armored Security Vehicles), built for MPs working convoy security or other work in hostile areas. The MP Corps would ultimately like some 3,000 ASVs, which would get the unit cost down to about \$600,000 per vehicle. The ASV can roll off a C-130 ready to fight, mounting a .50 HMG and a 40mm auto grenade launcher. The Army also wants to phase out the old Hummer, replacing it — and the new generation of cargo haulers — with models designed to accept add-on armor when the mission demands it, without breaking down under the extra load.

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The conventional wisdom used to be that the .32 you can carry, is a more effective defensive tool than the .45 that you cannot. There is a grain of truth to that, but it would have to be updated to "the .45 you can carry is a more effective tool than the .32 of the same dimension." And that .45 is the 6.5-inch long, 4.75-inch high Para Carry, now available in a "stealth" guise with a non-reflective, highly durable Para Kote™ finish with black polymer stocks and subdued medallion. With a Light Double Action trigger and 6+1 capacity, 3-inch match-grade barrel, spurless hammer and three redundant safeties (extended slide lock, beavertail grip and firing pin), plus a limited lifetime service policy, the Para Carry Stealth is an effective 30 ounces of practical protection — that you can carry.

— Don McLean

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## BUSHNELL "IMAGE CAPTURE"

A new binocular that is not a gimmick is Bushnell's "Image Capture," at the leading edge of contemporary technology. View, focus, and press a button: The image is digitally captured. Ever try to hold a camera to a bino and take a photograph? Not every occasion was fishing or hunting trip; sometimes it would be an asset in a tactical situation.

Bushnell has six different binocular instruments available with this technology, ranging from a new 7X18 compact thru three 8X30 instruments, a 10X25 and 8X32. They also offer two scopes with digital imaging technology.

You can re-view the image on a flip-up screen, erase it or save the image and later download it to your computer. The system isn't meant to replace the quality of digital photography, but it does meet that point more than halfway. — Galen Geer



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## BURRIS LASER BINOCULARS

Over the years this Colorado-based company has built a strong reputation for products that stand up to the abuses of constant field use. Recently, Burris took the step of combining two popular products into one – a Laser Rangefinding Binocular. The concept is not entirely new, but I have tested the B-1500 LR Binocular at the range. I liked it and decided it is an instrument worth having.

The B-1500 is a 7X40mm binocular that utilizes fully coated glass. With water-and fog-proof construction, it has a Field of View at 1000 yards of 315 feet, and a close-focus range down to 20 feet. These qualities are combined with laser-ranging technology that is powered by a 9-volt battery. The ranging unit has automatic rain and scan modes and an accuracy indicator. The B-1500 ranging accuracy has been established to + or - 3 feet in the worst inclement weather out to 600 yards, and it maintains ranging accuracy out to 1,500 yards.

— Galen Geer

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## OTIS TECHNOLOGY'S "GRIP KIT"

For three decades *Soldier of Fortune* magazine has watched several companies "grow up" in the firearms field. Some of these companies have remained friends of *SOF* and continued providing *SOF* readers with quality products. One of the best success stories has been Otis Technologies. Since its early days the company has been with *Soldier of Fortune*, selling gun-cleaning kits at the *SOF* Convention and advertising with us. Otis' support of our military has also been unequalled and the company is always on the leading edge of innovative gun-care products. Otis recently introduced a common sense add-on for M4 or M16 weapons. The "Otis Grip Kit" is a compact kit that fits inside the pistol grip of either weapon. The "kit" can be packed with the exclusive Otis gun cleaning gear so it is at the soldier's fingertips, or it can be used to carry spare ammo or AA batteries.

Although the "Grip Kit" is the most recent innovation from Otis, readers can get a catalogue listing their complete line of cleaning kits, including support of small unit weapons cleaning supplies, or kits for the individual soldier

— Galen Geer

## WALKER'S ULTRA EAR®

The Ultra Ear® is a serviceable, low-cost, entry-level device that is neither waterproof nor backed with a warranty, designed to introduce hunters to hearing amplification as a hunting tool. The product functions well, proving to the skeptic that hearing amplification does have a role in the field, but it is not designed to be a product for long-term use. "This product will not compete with our state-of-the-art Game Ear products," Walker told *SOF*. It has a suggested retail of \$39.95 and Walker is confident that once a consumer tests the idea of hearing amplification they will be willing to invest in Walker's other products.

For *SOF* readers who are familiar with sound amplification and compression products, Walker's Game Ear has introduced the "Power Muffs 4 'Quad'" with true state-of-the-art technology. These muffs are designed to provide both sound amplification and direction by using four microphones for "surround sound" hearing.

— Galen Geer



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# Viking Heaven Comes As A State-Of-The-Art Shooting School

BY  
GARY PAUL  
JOHNSTON

PHOTOS BY GARY PAUL JOHNSTON  
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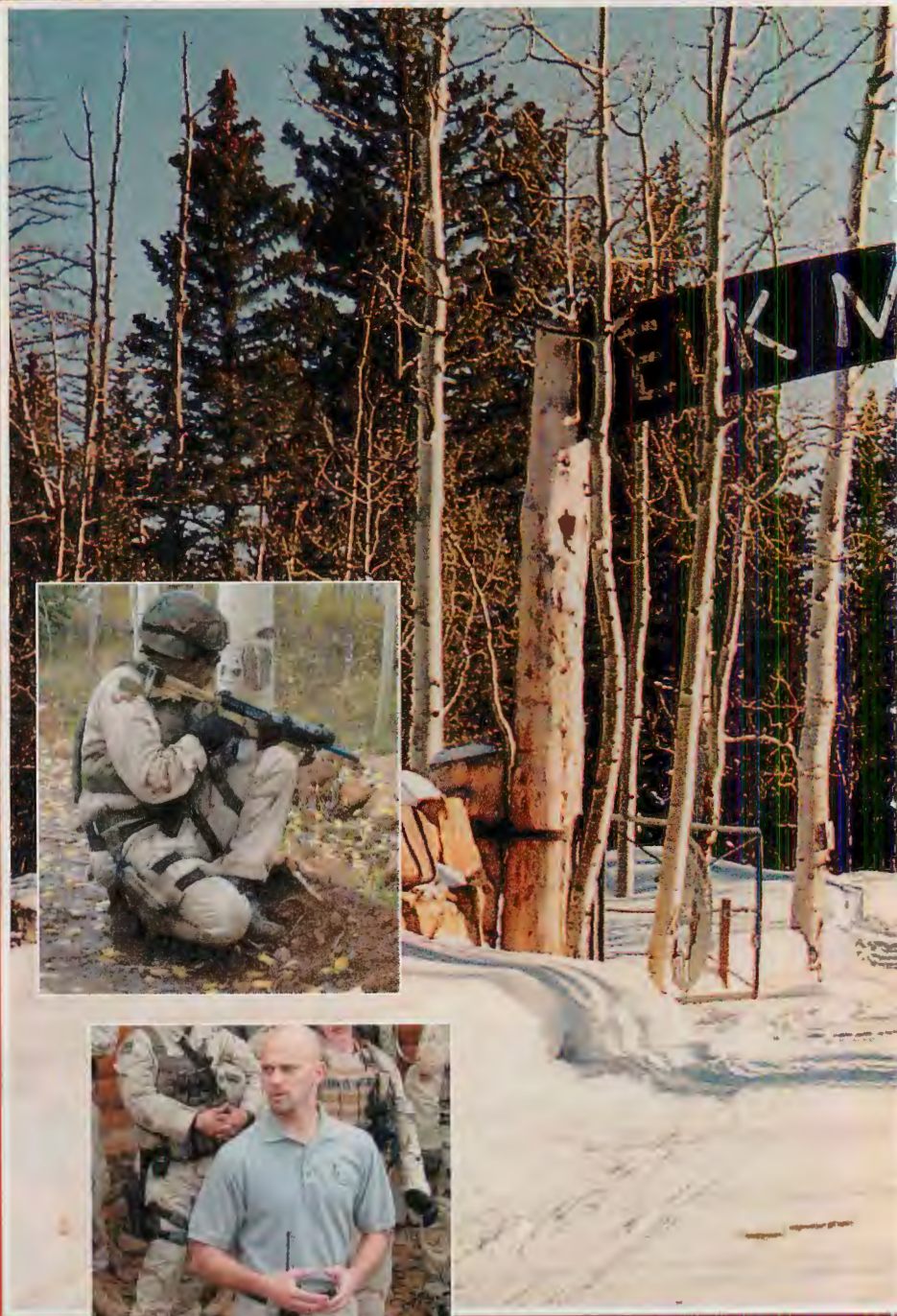
**H**igh on the western plateau of Colorado's San Juan Mountain Range, Ute Indians hunted not so long ago during the summer months, and took comfort in the natural hot springs located in what is now Ouray (pronounced Youray), named after the most well known of the Ute Chiefs.

Not much has changed. Wild game abounds in the form of mule deer, bighorn sheep, elk, bear, and mountain lion, not to mention wild turkey, and just over the ridge are moose reintroduced more than a decade ago, and now proliferating at a rewarding rate among the aspen, scrub oak, and ponderosa pine.

This is a country filled with the footprints of trappers, prospectors, and cattlemen (and women), the country of the original — the real — Katie Elder, and her gun-fighting, lawmen sons, the basis for the movie, *The Sons of Katie Elder*, and it's also where another John Wayne movie, *True Grit*, was made, but that's another story for another time.

Although the demographics of Ouray and Montrose Counties have changed, the timeless beauty and history of the area still abounds. With it are 21st Century comforts and recreational sports. Supporting technology is well established, and nothing exemplifies this more than Elk Mountain Resort.

Located just 18 miles southwest of the city of Montrose, in Ouray County, and 30 miles north of the famous San Juan Range, Elk Mountain Resort sits at 9,000 feet elevation. Comprising 275 acres of pristine primitive forest, Elk Mountain Resort is beautifully nestled among the aspens and pines so far from, but yet so near to all the comforts one could ask for. I know ... I live just over the hill.



*Built at 8,000 feet on 275 acres of virgin forest, Elk Mountain Resort not only offers some of the best summer and winter activities, but also one of the finest shooting experiences in the world. Valhalla's Director of Operations and Lead Instructor, Rob Pincus, (left) specializes in reality-based training for close-quarters tactics.*



# VALHALLA IN THE ROCKIES



*(above) Valhalla's ranges are also used by recreational shooters and AirSofters, like this father and son team.*

*(left) After engaging one target while sitting, this officer quickly moves to engage another on command.*

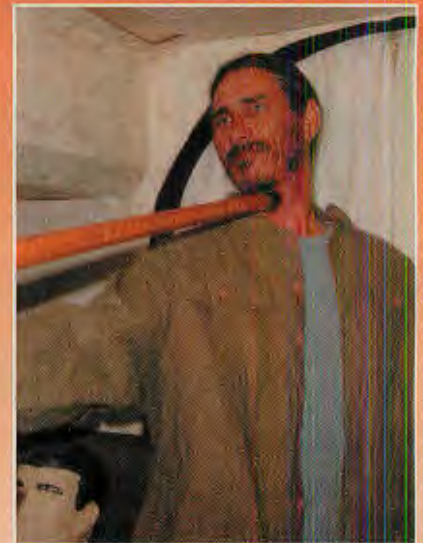
## Valhalla

Offering a wide range of both winter and summer outdoor activities, one of Elk Mountain Resort's main focuses is on shooting sports, complete with three world-class clay ranges, but at the center of all this is the Valhalla Shooting Club and Training Center. The name for heaven of the Viking Warrior, "Valhalla" offered unending challenges and victories to the Vikings, followed by grand feasts. Similar experiences can be had at this modern day Valhalla, with evening dinners at the five-star Elk Mountain Resort Restaurant.

Housed in a huge two-story building that most mistake for a luxurious Lodge, Valhalla is a multi-scenario shooting house filled with an ever-changing variety of tactical problem-solving experiences the likes of which you've never seen. Highlighted is progressive Reality Based Training, integration of human behavior response, and state-of-the-art training equipment. Not just for handgun training, Valhalla also runs specialized segments with pistol-caliber carbines and submachine guns, and has trained area police SWAT teams and many other officers.

*Continued on page 79*

# "THE PLANE, THE PLANE!" VALHALLA'S AIRPLANE DEFENSE TRAINING



**AS** mentioned, inside Valhalla's two-story shoot house the forward section of a real Boeing 737 jetliner has been reconstructed from original parts. Included is the entire cockpit with most of the controls, the first class galley, and the first six seats and windows of the first class section.

Originally purchased after Nine-Eleven, The Plane, as it is called, was set up to accommodate cockpit security training for commercial pilots, but Valhalla found another use for it that is just as important. That is teaching potential airline passengers things they could do in case of an attempted hijacking. The heroes of flight 93 attempted to

retake their plane and indeed prevented it from being used to murder hundreds more. The passengers on the flight with Richard Reed, the "shoe bomber," also took action to help the flight attendants subdue that terrorist and get their plane in safety.

I must stress that Valhalla does not recommend using such tactics, but is merely illustrating some of the things people might do to save their plane. In addition, neither I, nor *Soldier of Fortune* recommend any of these tactics. However, the TSA has reported that only 33% of domestic

*Continued on page 81*

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(Dateline, Visalia, CA) -- You know what the difference is between a so-so fighting system (which can give you false confidence)... and one that guarantees you will have the skills to **obliterate anyone who gets in your face?**

The difference is...

## **Real, Blood-On-Your-Hands Combat!**

Most martial art teachers have never been in a real *fistfight* before. Many former soldiers have never seen a battlefield. And some of the “experts” with the biggest mouths have never been within miles of a life-and-death situation.

Well... I have a guy here who, for several years straight, **saw combat-ready action EVERY DAY.** Yes, he faced lethal combat with the enemy. Yes, he killed people. And yes, he had to use his skills *every second of every hour* he was under threat.

His name is **Nir Maman** (pronounced “Near”). He’s a former Israeli special forces commando and top hand-to-hand combat instructor. From 1995 to 1998 his long-range reconnaissance unit (the feared “Sayeret Golani”) roamed deep into enemy territory, fighting, capturing and “eliminating” terrorists and insurgents. Usually, there were only **4 men** in his unit. Alone, without back-up, miles from safety — and with *less than one-fourth the training our own Spec Op soldiers receive* — these men faced constant, unrelenting and vicious counter-guerilla combat.

**Did you catch that?** These men did not have the luxury of long training. Israel has a limited population, and the men who join the Special Forces must get up to speed **FASTER** than any other sol-

dier in the world.

Why? Because...

## **They Face Blood-Curdling Lethal Combat Almost Immediately... Every Day Of Their Service!**

Our own super-nasty Spec Op guys (SEALS, Delta) — as well as other world-class soldiers like the French Foreign Legion — are in awe of these Israeli hard-asses. Their training is so short and so **CONDENSED** that at age 20, the Israeli Spec Op soldier is as skilled as the average 30-year-old SEAL.

**The secret:** Astonishing short-cut training methods that — until now — were *the most hidden fighting secrets in the world.*

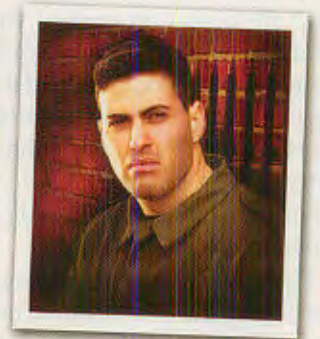
These guys **HAD** to learn fast... because they had to **USE** their training within days (sometimes hours) of learning it!

**What’s this mean for you?** Plenty... if you’re hungry for proven, super-nasty fighting skills that you can learn almost overnight. Nir not only used his skills in the field... but he got so good that he was asked to **TEACH** other soldiers his advanced skills. (A huge honor only a *handful* of men have ever enjoyed.)

He’s not just good (and has proven it by coming out of years of lethal combat without a scratch). He’s a friggin’ honest-to-God **expert**... who has perfected a **short-cut teaching method that will force-feed these skills into you faster than you ever believed possible.**

Best of all...

- ✓ You do not need to be in shape...
- ✓ You do not need to have any previous skills (Israeli soldiers come from the civilian population, just like you)...
- ✓ You do not need to be quick, or agile, or strong... and...



*Former Israel commando Nir Maman Served in the feared “Sayeret Golani” where his job was to “fight, capture and eliminate” terrorists and insurgents. He now reveals to YOU the fighting secrets that make him one of the most dangerous men on earth!*

✓ You do not need to be “blood thirsty”.

Nope. The Israeli army had to learn quick how to take ordinary men (who have no special skills or advantages whatsoever)... and turn them literally overnight into super-skilled fighters who could face lethal combat with **absolute confidence and mega-dangerous moves** that would prevail over the enemy.

Pray that you never have to meet up with the kind of guerilla terrorists the Israelis face every day. Vicious zealots who do not care if they live or die, as long as they inflict damage on you. Wild-eyed and well-trained killers who, in fact, **WANT** to die as they take you out. (They think they’re martyrs, with a twisted version of Heaven waiting.)

Let me tell you — when your opponent *doesn’t care at all about his own life* as he attacks you... **you better have the skills to take him out FAST.** In a split second, before he can put any hurt on you. And... you better make sure he **STAYS** down.

**Here’s what’s up:** These fighting se-



crets have NEVER been revealed before to anyone outside the Israeli Special Forces compounds. Nir has agreed to share them because, first, he created this special system himself. It's mostly his. (The Israeli army begged him to stay and continue teaching, but he had other plans after his long and distinguished service.) And second... Nir (along with so many other front-line veterans) realizes it is past time for Americans to learn how to fight.

**In just over an hour, you are about to "quick-learn" vicious fighting skills that will change your life.** Remember — our own U.S. Spec Op guys are deeply impressed with these Israeli tactics (and that says a lot about the authenticity and quality of this amazing new system). Even the most battle-experienced Delta commando in our army hasn't faced a *fraction* of the action the average Israeli soldier does in a month.

These skills are being proven, over and over again, every hour of every day. They are the reason Israeli soldiers are...

### **The Most Feared And Respected In The World!**

Would you like to check out these fighting secrets yourself?

You can do it...

### **Without Risking A Penny!**

**Here's how:** We rushed Nir into our super-secret recording studios as quickly as we could, once he agreed to reveal everything. The result are 4 tapes or 3 DVDs of the absolute BEST instructional videotapes I've ever seen.

This is **SHORT-CUT** training like you've never experienced. **No long practice or drills required.** It's actually...

### **Amazingly Simple!**

Hey — I didn't believe it myself at first. How can world-class fighting be *simple*?

The answer... is in Nir's astonishing teaching method. **It's completely new to martial arts.**

Most systems get complicated fast. It takes *years* to get just decent at the groundfighting skills needed for your average fighting system... and then more years to master the trapping skills, the disarming skills, etc. And *none* of the training you learn in face-to-face fighting works on the ground, and vice versa.

*Nir has magically made all other*

### **martial arts training obsolete.**

How? By bringing ALL the skills you will ever need down to just **7 BASIC TOOLS**. And these tactics work whether you're on the ground... running through a dark alley... or surprised from behind with a knife or gun.

Think about that: One set of skills... which you can use in EVERY SINGLE situation you find yourself in. It's like having one tool in your toolbox that does everything. It seems hard to imagine... but it's real. It's proven.

And it's *nasty*.

**That's why I insist you get the chance to check this out for yourself, without risk.** You have to see this new fighting system to believe it. You have to experience it to "get" how easy and simple it really is. It just seems to defy "common sense".

But, man oh man, does it ever WORK!

I won't try to convince you here. Only seeing the stuff in action will convince you. Still, here's a "taste" of what you're about to discover:

- ✓ How to use the combat-veteran soldier's "**Vital Target**" map of vulnerable spots on the human body... to instantly take out ANYONE (of any size or skill level) who attacks you! (Imagine having secret targets you can reach on anyone, at any time, that will paralyze and put him down in one swift move!)
- ✓ How to raise your fighting skills from zero to world-class (overnight)... **using just 7 basic moves that work on the ground, standing up, or against weapons!** (This is the simplest fighting system you've ever seen... yet it is also the most **PROVEN** and effective!)
- ✓ How to control... incapacitate... and end the fight on your terms... *in just seconds!*
- ✓ **Why "pain compliance" is total horseshit in real combat...** and "quick-learn" tips on how to instantly destroy the skeletal structure of your opponent to immobilize him without breaking a sweat! (Pain doesn't deter wild-eyed terrorists when they're in an adrenaline-fueled fury. Trying to win a fight by "stunning" your attacker is stupid and can get you killed in the real world.)
- ✓ How to learn — *fast*, in one quick

session — almost all you need to know to face down the most dangerous situations you'll ever encounter!

- ✓ The secrets of lulling your opponent into false confidence... right before you take him out! (Gain that **crucial extra second** to get the upper hand, without escalating the danger.)
- ✓ **How to use 12 pounds of pressure (less than it takes to open a can of soda pop) to cause a complete shutdown of his vital systems!** (A trick Israelis learn so they can take out an attacker on the run, without pausing to "fight" in any normal or expected way!)
- ✓ How to "mask" your intentions... **so your fight-ending move is completely hidden and a total surprise to your opponent!**

Oh, hell. It goes on and on. These are the most amazing and effective fighting secrets you'll ever learn. All in a **short-cut, super-condensed format** that will infuse you with skills literally as you simply **WATCH** the training tapes.

The thing is... **all you have to learn is 7 simple moves...** which work whether you're standing up, running, or on the ground. This training immediately reduces effective self-defense into a (fun) single "force-feed" session that will fly by.

Are you ready for it? No previous experience with fighting is necessary. **You don't need to be a "natural" warrior.** Nir will take care of all of that. In a single training session.

**Here's the deal:** Nir spent enough time in the studio for us to make 4 videos. Each one is worth its weight in gold (or blood).

**First...** is the BASIC hand-to-hand package of two training videos. Each video sells separately for \$49.99... but you can own this basic package for just \$69 (an immediate savings of \$30). That's IF you want to pay for the tapes. (I'll explain in a second)

**Second...** is **RECOMMENDED** package, which includes the hand-to-hand videos plus the amazing groundfighting video. (Nir's ground-fighting tactics are astonishing... because they leap over all other grappling techniques, and *skip* the years of training necessary for most systems. You learn proven fight-on-the-ground skills **INSTANTLY**.) This package is worth \$150... but you can

have it for \$99.

**Third** (and last)... is the **ADVANCEED** package. It's the one you want if you're serious about learning the most effective fighting tactics in the world. You get all the above videos **PLUS** the Israeli secrets of defending against a knife or gun. Disarming tactics up the yin-yang, especially close-quarter combat skills that can save your life in a confrontation. This is over \$200 worth of material... yet you can own it now for just \$129.

**But you do not risk a penny** to check it out for yourself, personally. Because you get an extended...

**One-Year 100% Money-Back Guarantee!**

**Here's how it works:** Check out this amazing package for yourself, and take a full YEAR to do it. If you're unhappy, for any reason (or for no reason at all), simply return the package for a complete refund. No questions asked.

And... if you opt for the **ADVANCED** package... I insist you **KEEP** the "Knife And Gun Disarmament" video as our gift to you, Just for giving Nir a chance.

That's a \$50 training video...

**FREE!**

And... if you ask for your refund... you've just seen the most sought-after fighting secrets on the planet... *for free.*

**Here's how to order:** Just call **1-800-899-8153** and tell whoever answers you want either Nir's "Basic Package"... or his "Recommended Package"... or his "Advanced Package". You can use your credit card.

Or, if you prefer to pay with a check or money order (payable to TRS)... just fill out the Priority Order Form and mail it to **TRS Direct - 606 E. Acequia Ave. - Visalia, CA 93292.**

Either way... *you do not risk a penny.*

This is **SERIOUS** stuff for anyone who wants to learn — fast — the most effective and simple fighting skills now in use.

This is also the **ONLY** way you can learn these skills... unless you join the Israeli army and opt for their Special Forces training. And go face constant deadly combat every day of your career.

**THERE IS ONE "CATCH":** You must *hurry*. Nir is understandably a little concerned that his former employers might **STOP** him from revealing these secrets.

So he has authorized us to release *only a very limited number of packages*, on a very limited time schedule.

That means... we only duplicated around 80 sets of this package, and then locked up the master tapes so no one else could gain access to them. Once this batch is sold out (and I expect it to sell out in days), there is a good chance you won't get another opportunity any-time soon to see this stuff!

**You don't risk a penny by ordering right now.** You know that TRS has been around for over 15 years, and is **THE** most trusted company in martial arts. We have earned the trust and respect of SWAT cops, the U.S. military, every branch of the Special Forces and even the "black bag" arms of the FBI and CIA.

We protect our reputation like a crazed bulldog. If you aren't happy, for any reason whatsoever, I insist you send the material back and get a complete refund. No questions asked. No hassles.

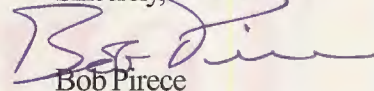
**This stuff is the real thing.** I am confident you will be impressed. But if you aren't, you get your money back, pronto. I respect your decision, no matter what it is. That's the only way we'll do business — with you as the boss. It's

how we built our reputation. It's why we're the top company in martial arts.

**So call right now.** Do it. You'll get your videos in just a few days... and you can see for yourself what all the fuss is about.

This is gonna blow your mind.

Sincerely,



Bob Pirece

**P.S.** One last thing — when you order, I will include a special **FREE audio cassette tape** we did with Nir that professionals are calling "the most important revelation of fighting secrets ever." In this tape, Nir goes into chilling detail about special Israeli combat secrets and tactics — this is stuff no one outside the Israeli "inner circle" of trainers and soldiers has ever heard before. If you're interested in **PRACTICAL** tactics and strategies that real fighters use when their life is on the line... you will love this tape.

And... *it's yours FREE.* To keep, no matter what you decide later.

However... I only have enough of these tapes to send to the first 80 people. There's one here with your name on it... but I will have to give it to someone else if you do not call right away. So hurry.

**PRIORITY ORDER FORM**



Nir Maman's

**Israeli Connection**

**For Fastest Service Use Your Credit Card and Call TOLL-FREE:**

**1-800-899-8153 (Dept. IC-31)**

**YES!** I want in on this amazing deal to see this all-new super-secret Israeli fighting system... without risking a penny! I understand I have a full year to decide after ordering if I want the package or not. That's outrageously generous, and gives me more than enough time to check everything out myself. It's like a full year of free instruction in the most feared, respected and proven fighting system on the planet right now. **Here's the package I want and how I want to pay:**

- Option #1:** *The basic package...* 2 life-changing videos on hand-to-hand fighting (including moves no one has ever seen before outside the Israeli Spec Op world!)... for just \$69 (an immediate savings of \$30!).
- Option #2:** *The Recommended Package...* both basic videos, plus the stunning Groundfighting video... for just \$99 (a savings of \$51!).
- Option #3:** *The Advanced Package...* all 4 videos or 3 DVDs for just \$129 (a savings of \$71!)... plus , I get to **KEEP** the Disarming Knives and Guns tape no matter what.

**Please send me everything on:**  **DVD Discs** or  **VHS Videotapes**

- I prefer to pay by credit card. Please charge my:  MasterCard  Visa  AmEx  Discover
- Enclosed is my check or money order (payable to TRS) for \$\_\_\_\_\_ (+ \$7 S&H).

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

Expires \_\_\_\_\_ Phone( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Mail payment to: TRS Direct, 606 E. Acequia Ave., Visalia, CA 93292, Department IC-31

CA residents add appropriate sales tax. "2-day" shipping \$17. "Overnight" shipping \$22. Foreign shipping (except Canada) \$25.

All payments in US currency only. Call 1-559-732-5317 for more information.

# COLLATERAL DAMAGE— Terrorist Style

BY RALPH JOHNSON

*"The purpose of terrorism is to terrorize."* V.I. Lenin

The guerrilla campaign waged by terrorist factions against the Coalition and the fledgling Iraqi security forces has been characterized by suicide bombings using man-pack explosives and vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices (VBIEDs). The terrorists strike without regard for the innocent, or observing the sanctity of institutions like religious sites, humanitarian organizations, or diplomatic compounds. In fact, installations housing groups and individuals who most of the civilized world would respect, are selected by the Iraqi terrorists as targets. This has been demonstrated by attacks on the United Nations compound, the Red Cross building, and numerous mosques, churches, hospitals, and diplomatic compounds. It is a defiant "in your face" type of warfare, serving notice that no one and no institution is safe, that no norm of civilized behavior will be observed.

## The Doctor and the Bombers

Dr. Kaydar Al-Chalabi had finished seeing patients for the day on a hot July afternoon. It had been a long day, even for him. As Director of the Iraqi Spinal Cord Injury Hospital, he

was used to long hours. While most Iraqi doctors started at nine in the morning and went until two in the afternoon, he had the hospital's business to keep him occupied well into the evening. The hospital had the only public prosthetics laboratory in Iraq, very busy since the war, and casualties from the fighting and the aftermath, as well as from land mines, were keeping the leg makers steadily employed. Then there were the paralyzed patients, with the Spinal Cord Hospital the only place in Iraq where they could come for the specialized physical therapy and care, after losing their ability to walk or attend to many bodily functions.

Even in the days just after the war ended, when Baghdad was open season for looters, Dr Al-Chalabi managed to keep the hospital open. He smiled when he remembered how he stood with a few loyal staff members, weapons in hand, fend-

*The American Ambassador to Iraq, John P. Negroponte, visited an Iraqi Police training camp in Hillah, and the governor's office and the governing council in An Najaf on October 14, 2004. Ambassador John Negroponte watched demonstrations at the IP training camp and met with the governor and other council members to discuss the ongoing projects for the rebuilding of Iraq.*



U.S. Army photo by Spc Katherine M Roth



(above) Soldiers from Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment (Light), 25th Infantry Division out of Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, conduct search and attack operations in Samara, Iraq. (right) On 5 September 2004 Members of, Company C, 2-5 Cav, 1st



BCT, 1st CD as part of Task Force Lancer, secure an alley way after the discovery of a weapons cache in connection with Muqtada's Militia.

ing off looters who wanted to steal the medicine, electronics, wires from the walls, anything of value. But the hospital had become part of his life, and he would defend it. When the hospital ran out of LPG, he fed his staff from his own kitchen. He transported patients and staff in his car, narrowly avoiding carjackers.

He had much to be proud of that afternoon, but for him, it was just one more day. He sat back in his chair and lit a cigarette, having the habit shared by most Iraqi males.

Suddenly the hospital exploded. A great blast shook the one-story building to its foundations, blasting in windows, dropping ceiling panels, scattering ductwork, burying staff and patients in rubble.

The doctor quickly regained his senses and his wits. He knew the hospital census, some 76 paralyzed and amputee patients, patients who should have been recovering in peace from terrible wounds, now victims of violence once again. He sprang into the hallway, only to find a scene of nightmarish confusion.

The visibility was restricted due to a dust cloud, and there were staff, family members and patients crying out. Glass covered the floor, and insulation, pipes, and wiring dangled from the ceiling. Dr. Al-Chalabi made his way to the southeastern corner of the hospital, there to find walls blown in, while beds, medical equipment, and fixtures were strewn about.

But the patients! What about the patients? During the next few hellish hours, as darkness was falling, and the world's attention was focused on other high profile bombings in Baghdad, the doctor and his staff used pieces of pipe, cable, and bare hands to pry the twice-wounded patients out of what once was their place of safety. At last he knew the gravity of the situation: 76 patients in the hospital at the time of the bombing, and all 76 patients had new wounds from the latest terrorist strike. Some were gravely wounded; some had minor cuts and contusions. The staff also had several wounded, people with crucial skills in assisting amputees and paralyzed patients to resume independent lives — people who were now to become those types of patients themselves.

With the dawn, the surviving staff had a chance to appreciate the extent of the damage. About one-fifth of the building complex was destroyed beyond repair. Several patient rooms were blown apart. The generators were now so-much twisted metal, as were two of the hospital's three ambulances. Unexploded ordnance in the form of mortar rounds and

artillery shells, loaded into the bomber's truck to give it added lethality, littered the grounds and roof.

But there was some good news. The staff quarters were located away from the blast, and were intact. The prosthetic workshop was shaken, but the equipment, supplies, and staff were intact. Some wards would be reusable after cleaning out the debris. An American Civil Affairs Public Health Team showed up and began to assess the damage, so that they could submit for funds for reconstruction.

So, with the determination of people who refuse to accept defeat, who will not submit to terrorist intimidation, the staff of the Spinal Cord Hospital began to clean up and rebuild. Ten days later, they were fitting amputees for prosthetics and doing physical therapy on paralyzed patients. The hospital still needed millions in repairs, but it was functioning again, treating patients, and those patients and their families knew that someone cared enough to stand up on their behalf. A hospital staff with determination had won a small but significant victory in the war on terrorism.

### The Terrorist Bombing Continue

Iraq has recently been shaken by several terrorist bombings, coming one right after the other. The Jordanian Embassy was first in late Spring 2003, and a curious target, as Jordan supplied the Saddam regime with military supplies at a time when an embargo was in place. One would suppose that pro-regime holdouts would maintain some affection for the Jordanians. Jordan has also supplied assistance to the Iraqi public since the fall of Saddam's regime, its hospitals accepting without charge many patients who cannot be adequately treated in Iraq. The embassy, neutral territory under the flag of its nation, was on a public thoroughfare and had security appropriate to an embassy compound. The embassy of another Moslem nation, Turkey, was also subjected to a car-bombing. Its exterior façade was destroyed, and its compound walls were riddled with holes.

The United Nations bombing was the next big one, taking out people who were in Iraq only to help. It has been followed by a veritable open season on the representatives of charitable organizations, with the NGO representatives being subjected to ambush, drive-by shootings, kidnapping and car bombs. The offices of the International Committee of the Red Cross, historically absolutely impartial and humanitarian, were subjected to a car bomb. Casualties were thankfully light due to a concrete barrier between the building and the

quiet side street where it is located. But the bomb had its intended effect: the international staff withdrew, all but closing Red Cross operations in a country that desperately needs them. Most NGOs (non-governmental organizations or charities) have withdrawn from Iraq. The South Koreans, for example, operated with relative impunity in the Sadr City area of Baghdad. They enjoyed a well-deserved reputation in the Shiite slums as impartial and hard working, and funded clinics and public health projects. Then militants kidnapped four of them. After community pressure was put on the kidnapers, the hostages were released. They departed the country, and took their funding with them. The militants did not win any favor with the people, and they drove away support for their families and neighborhood.

But the Iraqi militants and their foreign fellow-terrorists seem to care about hearts and minds only in the sense of stopping hearts from beating, and controlling what thoughts minds can generate. They want only to kill and destroy, fulfilling some warped apocalyptic vision of their ideal society.

Not even Moslem holy sites are safe from those who claim to be fighting in the name of Allah. They delivered a car bomb, just as the Grand Mosque in Najaf was emptying after Friday prayers, killing a revered Shia holy man and 82 others. Hundreds more were wounded, and the streets surrounding the mosque ran with the blood of the innocent.

Recently, the terrorists have begun attacking Christian churches, waiting until services are in session to assure maximum casualties.

The assassination of Imam Hakim in July of 03 is another example of the Coalition not being able to protect what it cannot reach. The Grand Mosque at Najaf is one of the holiest sites to the Shia, and no foreign troops are tolerated anywhere near it. U.S. forces operate under ground rules that strictly forbid entrance into or interference with Moslem holy places. There were no American or British troops anywhere near the Imam or the mosque. You can't protect what you can't access, but you can receive the blame if things go wrong. Why was the harshest criticism directed against the United States, instead of the terrorists who attacked an ancient and holy religious site, and killed a revered cleric?

There is speculation that Imam Hakim was murdered to make way for the radical cleric Muktada Al Sadr and his militia, so that they could base their operations in Najaf, and conduct paramilitary operations from the sanctuary of the Grand Mosque. Al Sadr, who has never managed to gain the support of a majority of Iraqis, also sought the legitimacy that being the Imam of a holy site could give him.

The BBC, CNN, and leftist politicians in the United States and abroad have spun the recent tragedies in the predictable way, saying that the United States and allied forces can't protect their friends. The American Armed Forces, by implication, are said to be incompetent, and an ignominious defeat will surely follow unless the Coalition gives in to international pressure and allows the United Nations to take over. This is the same United Nations that failed to protect refugees from slaughter in Bosnia, refused to act in the face

of a defiant Saddam Hussein, and which refuses to act to protect hundreds of thousands of Africans in the Sudan from torture and murder by marauding Arabs. The same United Nations that could not, would not, protect its own embassy and staff in Baghdad.

The United Nations Compound was a terrorist bombing waiting to happen. The Director of Security was hired shortly prior to the attack, and realized the vulnerability of the compound. He was frustrated at every turn to improve the situation, as the UN wanted the facility to present an open, accessible feel to the Iraqis. The UN bureaucrats and the professional philanthropists representing the NGOs have no use for Coalition Forces, the American Army in particular, and kept us away. Their attitude was "the further the better." I once had occasion to visit the UN on business and attempted to park my HMMWV in the compound. I was shown the exit by a few lightly armed Iraqi security guards who kept out the riff-raff. The attitude of many of the well-dressed UN bureaucrats was that the sweaty, smelly men in desert camouflage should leave the reconstruction of Iraq to those who represented the international community. After all, everyone knew that the UN was above petty violence, didn't they? Terrorists wouldn't dare disregard world opinion.

The experienced people working for the UN knew better. A familiar topic of discussion at the Friday night cookouts at the UN was when the bomb would come. The lax security, the location just off a busy thoroughfare, the unguarded alley next to the compound (into which the bomber predictably drove), were all indications that something was wrong. The bomb came, in a truck packed with explosives and munitions, driven up next to the compound, and took a rising star, Sergio Demello, and 25 others with it. U.S. forces couldn't protect the UN compound, as they didn't have permission from the UN to do so.

There is a commonality to the bombings: The utter disregard for the safety of those things that civilized people agree should be protected, such as diplomats, humanitarian workers, the clergy, and other innocent civilians. The bombers seem to be sending the message that no one and no place is safe; that they can and will strike anywhere, without regard to civilized taboos or common decency.

This is one of the many manifestations of the guerrilla war that is being waged in Iraq. The guerrillas have the initiative, and they strike without fear of restraint or consequence. They use the Arab media as their propaganda outlets as they tape beheadings, executions of the innocent, and bombings and then feed them to eager TV stations in the region. They proudly post their atrocities on their websites. All of this has been met, by a resounding silence from the Arab world, to include the press, statesmen, educators and clerics. One can imagine what would happen if an American tank fired into a mosque, or if a bomb went astray and struck an embassy, as happened a few years ago in Yugoslavia. The flak from the press, American domestic political opposition, and the diplomatic corps would be like a great tidal wave, flooding the newspapers, radio and television. The Arab networks, which have a



*2nd Lt. Chris Vannucci, a physician's assistant with the 216th Engineer Combat Battalion, treats a young girl as others wait for their turn to see him. The girls are all wearing the new shoes they were just given by soldiers from the 141st Engineer Combat Battalion.*

# "Picture Two People, Locked In Mortal Combat, One Strangling The Other. Now, Imagine Yourself In This Scene And Tell Me... What Would You Do?"

(Hint: Whatever Your Answer, The Odds Are... It's Wrong!)"



**K**ick him in the groin." "Strike the arms or punch the solar plexus." "Grab the hands." "Stomp on his instep"

The list is always the same.

Unfortunately... each answer puts your life at risk in the face of a life-or-death assault.

Why? Because invariably when Tim Larkin asks students this question at his *Target-Focus™ Training* (TFT) bootcamps...

## No One — Not Even Trained Martial Artists — Sees Themselves As The One Doing The Choking!!

They're always the one **being choked**.

But think about it... couldn't this have been the scenario?

*You are surprised by two attackers. You've completely disabled the first and now have control of the second and are about to put him totally out of commission...*

Possible? Of course. It's just that no one sees it this way. It's human nature. We shy from victory, from domination. It's the way most of us are built... unless you're a criminal...

**Here's the problem:** A thug comes up, places a knife to your throat and demands your wallet. Taking him at his word you give him the wallet. He then proceeds to stab you repeatedly leaving you in a pool of your own blood, astonished you've been stabbed.

**What went wrong?** Just this. You ASSUMED he only wanted the wallet. After all, why would anyone stab someone over a few measly bucks? YOU certainly wouldn't do that if you were robbing someone.

And that **IS** the problem. With thinking like that...

## You've Just Transferred Your Own Moral Code To A Sociopathic Killer... And With It, Quite Possibly, Your Life.

See, nothing bothers him. Certainly not your morals. With a total disregard for society and it's rules, he has no regret whatsoever in cramming a blade into your gut... to get what he wants.

You stroll around thinking 15 years of martial arts training or that 6-week self-defense course or some reality fighting video gives you the edge you need against someone like this. Wake up!

**You are hopelessly training techniques** (then praying they work) against someone who isn't "training" for you. How many criminals in federal pens spent years sweating through JKD workouts before committing their crime? How many are Jujitsu experts?

**Not a one!** They excel at just one thing: doin' it. No training, no practice, no techniques. And certainly no "rules". So why squander years fooling yourself with something that only works "if everyone plays by the rules"?

**These are the facts:** 98% of us caught in an unavoidable violent attack (even those with years of training), would never consider doing "whatever it takes" to survive — like gouging our attacker's eyes — even if they were the only targets available, and... even if it was the **only means of saving our own life!**

Larkin trains you from the get-go how to kill, if necessary, to survive a life-or-death confrontation.

He doesn't advocate violence. TFT just demystifies it. He's often quoted...

## "Violence Is Rarely The Answer. But When It Is... It's The Only Answer."

Look... others in Soldier of Fortune try to impress



Tim Larkin, creator of *Target-Focus Training*

you with how bad they are; their accomplishments in the "secret world" you aren't privy to; their guru status.

TFT isn't about that. **It's not about an individual, a personality... or a guru.**

**It's about a system... one that's focused totally on you!**

**No bones about it:** Larkin's record is impressive. He trains units from all the top echelons of federal law enforcement and military special operations groups. It's not surprising since he comes from that world and is well known there. But everyone in Soldier of Fortune tries to claim this so you'll rarely hear him talk about it.

He's an awesome communicator and trainer, and is amazingly approachable for someone with his abilities and credentials. And he's trained 1,000's of CEOs and others in high-risk positions around the world — all very real people.

But why is this so important? Why is TFT being sought out in all these other arenas?

**Because it works!** Because you "get it" immediately. Not after weeks or months or even years of training... but **right now**... as soon as you experience it. And...

## Not Only Is It Usable... Instantly... But Just Like Riding A Bicycle It Stays With You Forever...

**Even If You Never Practice It Again!**

**Here's why:** the key lies in the fact this is the only system based **totally** on the PRINCIPLES (not techniques) that determine the outcome of any physical confrontation. Combine these with three supporting methodologies that form the foundation of every fighting system on the planet and you have a **complete system** usable by ANYone for handling ANY violent confrontation. With this information you can look at anything out there... including your own training... and know immediately if it's worth keeping.

*"It was the most effective days of training in hand-to-hand and hand-to-weapon that I or anyone else had ever experienced."* Brian (last name withheld), US Border Patrol, S Carolina

Last year Larkin trained over 600 CEO's in Europe. This year he'll spend 57 consecutive days training others in England, the Far East and Asia, and India. These folks are eating his stuff up because TFT principles and methodology are as effective in the "combative" world of business as they are in a truly lethal fight, and for the exact same reason... **RESULTS.**

**Think about this:** If these people can get this much from his material, **imagine how much more you can learn**... a dedicated reader of Soldier of Fortune magazine who is really into finding and applying a system that is **quickly learned and deadly effective**. If all these folks are **seeking him out**, shouldn't you be too?

Look, Larkin is swamped and realizes he can't begin to reach everyone. While he'd love to have you as a member of his organization and to take part in his live training, he realistically understands few will be able to do this. Bootcamps run \$1,500.00, international events start at \$9,500.00, and personal training for small 2- to 4-person sessions is \$10,000.00 and more.

That's why, in a daring move with potentially serious ramifications, he's released a new WEAPONS-focused

version of his TFT system that shows you how to defeat a violent criminal in a **WORSE-than-worst-case scenario**. After seeing his program... a life-or-death confrontation in a dark alley is a piece of cake.

Not only does this new series take you inside the criminal mind, it goes way beyond... showing you how and why you must first learn to USE a weapon... if you ever hope to defeat a criminal using it against you! Highly unconventional and extremely controversial it teaches you how to get your focus off the weapon... and onto defeating the REAL threat.

Some foolishly feel this stuff is too violent, totally ignorant of the fact you don't always have to push it to the levels shown on these tapes.

## It's Very Easy To Ramp This Down To Fit A Lesser Situation But It's Impossible To Ramp Up And Kill Someone If You've Never Trained For It!

Some will be shocked, dismayed, offended and **outraged that anyone would dare show this stuff**. They'll raise a stink... and do everything possible to get this yanked. But better you see this on video than experience it first-hand on the street!

Everything you'll see here is vintage TFT. You learn to hurt someone very quickly (every sequence shows killing movements right from the start). There's no size, speed or quickness required. Anyone can learn this because it's based on principles not some guru's skills.

Guys that have been in the trenches for years are blown away by the simple brutality and effectiveness of this system and the competence of Larkin's instructors, including their knowledge of anatomy and how to inflict trauma on the human body.

Each averages 10 years of training and surprisingly most aren't "jocks". Many have **advanced degrees**; five hold PhD's! His advisory board includes two medical doctors who assure everything you see about inflicting trauma on the human body is totally accurate.

*"With this system: 1) You will learn what Larkin says you will learn, and 2) The course is exactly as advertised — intense, targeted, focused training designed to produce immediate results."* Mark D. Fabiani, Crisis Mgt Consultant, La Jolla, CA

**Let's cut to the chase:** this program is extremely controversial and NOT for everyone. If you'd never consider killing someone threatening your life or if you're hoping to see lots of useless predetermined techniques or cool setup moves — you can stop reading here. This is **only** for those who want to learn to defeat a criminal in a life-or-death situation.

Listen. I understand you may find this hard to believe. That's how I felt too until I saw the videos. Unfortunately there's not room here to adequately describe the **shocking reality of what Larkin has created for you**. That's why he's not asking for a penny of your money now. Instead he'll spend his own cash to put a 17-page Special Report into your hands that will **prove everything you've just read** and explain why this program is so DIFFERENT from anything you've seen before.

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strong anti-American bias to begin with, would broadcast the images endlessly. This would erode what small support the Coalition has in the Arab world, and weaken support at home. New recruits would be added to the terrorist ranks. The Coalition has of need been very careful to observe the rules of engagement, occasionally to its detriment. It's not easy to take fire from a mosque or school and not fight back. But in the long view, it may be wisest to not choose the battles, which, even if won in the field, would be lost to public opinion.

### Securing What We Can

Potential targets that can be secured in Baghdad have been secured, to the best of the ability of the Coalition, though security is lax in some areas. The Baghdad International Airport, commonly known as "BIAP" is difficult to enter if one is not on military business. Currently closed to commercial traffic, the airport is surrounded by walls and wire, and the entrances are protected by concrete barriers, troops, fighting positions, cleared fields of fire, and armored fighting vehicles. The perimeter is loosely guarded, however, and it is relatively easy for the Bad Guys to move around it with mortars or man-portable SAMs. The Coalition had planned to reopen the airport to commercial traffic in July of 03, and had given it an expensive facelift after the combat there. It has not yet opened as of this writing. One SAM can ruin your whole day.

Until the transfer of sovereignty, the Coalition Provisional Authority was comfortably ensconced in a heavily guarded and well-protected palace, fortified against possible vehicle bombs and ground assault, but the badge and pass system was a joke. American officers on official business were kept out, while Iraqi merchants entered to sell pirated CDs and Iranian carpets from their stalls set up in the marble hallways. Iraqi employees of other offices, most of whom were stylishly dressed young females, entered effortlessly with a smile to the guards. Iraqi females from other American-run offices were issued passes allowing them to eat at the CPA mess, while American and other Coalition soldiers were shooed away. In the words of one American colonel with a CPA badge, "We can't just let *anybody* in the headquarters." Can't let just anybody have access to the swimming pool or steak and lobster, can we Colonel?

There have been recent successes. In early September, an attempt was made to bomb the downtown Baghdad Police Station, located adjacent to Baghdad City hall. The car bomb, however, did not get any closer than the parking lot, where it was detonated. Flying debris injured one Iraqi, but a larger tragedy was averted because, due to heightened security, the bomber was unable to get closer to the buildings.

The residents of the embattled city of Najaf have also had enough, and thousands have recently taken to the streets in mass demonstrations demanding that Al Sadr and his thugs leave their city. They were prevented from marching on Al Sadr's headquarters by Iraqi police, who feared more blood would be spilled. The banners they carried denounced the militiamen as "thieving vermin" and "betrayers of Islam" —

pretty daring slogans for an unarmed crowd in the face of AKs and RPGs.

To those on the ground, it seems that Coalition intelligence personnel could move more aggressively to develop human intelligence (HUMINT) and pursue leads. One Civil Affairs team reported that their translator had identified a heavily armed cell of guerrillas who were planning an attack. He had their location plotted, and was willing to offer himself for arrest if his information was incorrect. The information was not pursued, and the guerrillas launched an attack from that location, supported by mortars and machineguns. They then fled into the night, to regroup and prepare another strike.

### How We Can Win

The war in and for Iraq can only be won by sticking to the fundamentals of guerrilla war that the United States' unconventional warriors know so well: Eliminate the outside support as much as possible; involve the people in their own government as much as possible, wherever possible; continue economic and political development by the Iraqis as an ongoing process, thereby drying up the pool of recruits; publicize the positive results being achieved, as well as civic action projects, and show the barbarity of the enemy for what it is. And while all the nation building is going on, *aggressively continue the hunt for the Bad Guys!* And kill them.

One would surmise that rebuilding the Iraqi infrastructure, working to ensure full employment, and developing a democratic political process where there was dictatorship will take a long time. American and other Coalition troops will be needed for the foreseeable future to assure security and stability. The Coalition will continue to take casualties. Innocent Iraqis and Bad Guys will die. The trauma centers will continue to be busy. Nobody said this was going to be easy. The despots and dictators who make up the majority of governments in the region, who therefore want to maintain the status quo, will actively or pas-

sively oppose the new Iraq. But once the Iraqis take ownership of the struggle, once the majority of the population realizes that it has an essential stake in defeating terrorism, then will the situation stabilize.

There is evidence that this is beginning to happen. Iraqis from all walks of life are getting involved in the political process, women are organizing and speaking up, and ordinary Iraqis are rejecting violence as a solution to their problems. The economy is booming, with hoarded cash being spent, and salaries from reconstruction funds finding their way into new shops and businesses. Iraq, with an abundance of oil and a skilled and educated populace, has the potential to be an economic and political example to the Middle East and beyond. The Iraqis must be encouraged in their struggle, not only by the Coalition, but by the friends of liberty and civilization everywhere. The stakes are too high to let the disciples of darkness succeed.

*A frequent contributor to SOF, Ralph Johnson is a U.S. Army Reserve medical officer.* ✕



*Soldiers from 3rd Squad, 1st Platoon, 9th Engineer Battalion, attached to 1-77th Armor, 2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division move in tactical through the front gates of a house that was being searched in the early morning in Samarra.*

# Black Listed Cancer Treatment Could Save Your Life

**Baltimore, MD**—As unbelievable as it seems the key to stopping many cancers has been around for over 30 years. Yet it has been banned. Blocked. And kept out of your medicine cabinet by the very agency designed to protect your health—the FDA.

In 1966, the senior oncologist at a prominent New York hospital rocked the medical world when he developed a serum that “shrank cancer tumors in 45 minutes!” 90 minutes later they were gone... Headlines hit every major paper around the world. Scientists and researchers applauded. Time and again this life saving treatment worked miracles, but the FDA ignored the research and hope he brought and shut him down.

You read that right. He was not only shut down—but also forced out of the country where others benefited from his discovery. That was over 38 years ago. How many other treatments have they been allowed to hide? Just as in the case of Dr. Burton’s miracle serum these too go unmentioned.

## Two-Nutrient Cancer Breakthrough...

Decades ago, European research scientist Dr. Johanna Budwig, a six-time Nobel Award nominee, discovered a totally natural formula that not only protects against the development of cancer, but people all over the world who have been diagnosed with incurable cancer and sent home to die have actually benefited from her research—and now lead normal lives.

After 30 years of study, Dr. Budwig discovered that the blood of seriously ill cancer patients was deficient in certain substances and nutrients. Yet, healthy blood always contained these ingredients. It was the lack of these nutrients that allowed cancer cells to grow wild and out of control.

By simply eating a combination of two natural and delicious foods (found on page 134) not only can cancer be prevented—but in case after case it was actually healed! “Symptoms of cancer, liver dysfunction, and diabetes were completely alleviated.” Remarkably, what Dr. Budwig discovered was a totally natural way for eradicating cancer.

However, when she went to publish these results so that everyone could benefit—she was blocked by manufacturers with heavy financial stakes! For over 10 years now her methods have proved effective—yet she is denied publication—blocked by the giants who don’t want you to read her words.

What’s more, the world is full of expert minds like Dr. Budwig who have pursued cancer remedies and come up with remarkable natural formulas and diets that work for hundreds and thousands of patients. *How to Fight Cancer & Win* author William

Fischer has studied these methods and revealed their secrets for you—so that you or someone you love may be spared the horrors of conventional cancer treatments.

As early as 1947, Virginia Livingston, M.D., isolated a cancer-causing microbe. She noted that every cancer sample analyzed (whether human or other animal) contained it.

This microbe—a bacteria that is actually in each of us from birth to death—multiplies and promotes cancer when the immune system is weakened by disease, stress, or poor nutrition. Worst of all, the microbes secrete a special hormone protector that short-circuits our body’s immune system—allowing the microbes to grow undetected for years. No wonder so many patients are riddled with cancer by the time it is detected. But there is hope even for them...

Turn to page 82 of *How to Fight Cancer & Win* for the delicious diet that can help stop the formation of cancer cells and shrink tumors.

## Six-time Nobel Nominee’s Two-Nutrient Cancer Breakthrough Revealed

**They walked away from traditional cancer treatments...and were healed!** Throughout the pages of *How to Fight Cancer & Win* you’ll meet real people who were diagnosed with cancer—suffered through harsh conventional treatments—turned their backs on so called modern medicine—only to be miraculously healed by natural means! Here is just a sampling of what others have to say about the book.

“We purchased *How to Fight Cancer & Win*, and immediately my husband started following the recommended diet for his just diagnosed colon cancer. He refused the surgery that our doctors advised. Since following the regime recommended in the book he has had no problems at all, cancer-wise. If not cured, we believe the cancer has to be in remission.”

—Thelma B.

“I bought *How to Fight Cancer & Win* and this has to be the greatest book I’ve ever read. I have had astounding results from the easy to understand knowledge found in this book. My whole life has improved drastically and I have done so much for many others. The information goes far beyond the health thinking of today.”

—Hugh M.

“I can’t find adequate words to describe my appreciation of your work in providing *How to Fight Cancer & Win*. You had to do an enormous amount of research to bring this vast and most important knowledge to your readers.

My doctor found two tumors on my prostate with a high P.S.A. He scheduled a time to surgically remove the prostate, but I canceled the appointment. Instead I went on the diet discussed in the book combined with another supplement. Over the months my P.S.A. has lowered until the last reading was one point two.”

—Duncan M.

“In my 55 years as a Country Family Physician, I have never read a more ‘down to earth,’ practical resume of cancer prevention and treatments, than in this book. It needs to be studied worldwide for the prevention of cancer by all researchers who are looking for a cure.”

—Edward S., M.D.

“As a cancer patient who has been battling lymphatic cancer on and off for almost three years now, I was very pleased to stumble across *How to Fight Cancer & Win*. The book was inspiring, well-written and packed with useful information for any cancer patient looking to maximize his or her chances for recovery.”

—Romany S.

“I’ve been incorporating Dr. Budwig’s natural remedy into my diet and have told others about it. Your book is very informative and has information I’ve never heard about before (and I’ve read many books on the cancer and nutrition link). Thanks for the wonderful information.”

—Molly G.

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# COMBAT WEAPONCRAFT

FARNAM'S GUNSLINGER DIARY  
BY JOHN FARNAM



## Those Who Can't Fight, Plan...

*Comments on the current state of our military bureaucracy, from a friend in the system:*

"I just returned from a large base in Missouri. The meeting there was to discuss protection from chemical and biological weapons. As you know, the U.S. military no longer stocks offensive chemical or biological weapons, but defense against this stuff is still a great concern.

"I was stunned at the difference between people who purport to patronize this mysterious, futuristic 'warfighter' about whom we've all heard (but never seen) and those who are actually participating in genuine fighting, right now.

"I met at least 20 dancing marionettes from different 'support groups,' Navy and Army, who incessantly gushed about how they were planning the next generation of wonder gear. There were testing, and testing, and evaluating, then testing some more. The only conclusion of which they seem capable was that we need more tests!

"Between briefings, I talked with just as many true Warriors who desperately wanted working gear, in the field, now, and they didn't care where it came from or who took credit for it! Most had been deployed to the Mid-East at least once (10th Mountain, 101st, USMC, MEI, and some NAG units) and were about to go over for their second or third time. They pleaded with this collection of 'planners,' insisting that we do not have five to seven years to wait for the next generation of wonder gear. They openly asked why we can't use what is commercially available now, but outside DoD. Case in point: currently deployed NBC detection equipment does not enjoy the confidence of anyone. Special Operations Command, et al thumb their collective noses at the current directive to stay within the DoD system. 'Regular' service units, unfortunately, are stuck.

"The Army is hopelessly enthralled with the 'joint programs' concept that procures everything for all branches. Interminable delays in actually fielding new equipment seems to escape the notice, much less the concern, of 'planners.' Marines take the biggest beating as they have the fewest budget dollars and hence the least influence.

"Planners' want the new XML-8 rifle in 6.8 mm, with an integral, proximity-fused grenade launcher. Warriors want

Cor-Bon DPX ammunition for existing M16s/M4s, now.

"Planners' want yet another new pistol, this one with rails, lasers, adjustable grips, *ad nauseum*. Warriors want magazines that actually work in existing M-9 pistols, now.

"This is the way it must have been during the Vietnam Campaign in the 1960's, eh?"

*Comment: If we can't aggressively field working equipment now, when do we think, in our wildest fantasies, we will ever be able to? Flexibility, daring, audacity, and the ability and willingness to move forward swiftly, marks a victorious army. Stilted, uninspired armies, lead by those more interested in keeping their jobs than doing their jobs, ever flounder, no matter how big or self-assured.*

### How Various Ammo Performs

I spent the morning at the Harvey, Illinois, PD Range, attending friend Jeff Chudwin's wonderful Patrol Rifle Instructors' Class. Jeff has students flock to him from all over the country. Nearly all were using AR-15s, RRA, DPMS, and DSA.

This morning's curriculum included a ballistic gelatin demonstration. A number of pistol and rifle rounds were fired into gelatin blocks, after penetrating clothing, gypsum board, car glass, car doors, and soft body armor. My observations:

Soviet and Chinese 7.62X39 ammunition uses bullets with a lot of steel in them. Penetration is astounding! Typically goes through a car door, gypsum board, and Level II vest, and still penetrates 20 inches of gelatin.

Fifty-five gr hardball in .223 will penetrate some homogeneous barriers, but does poorly on layered barriers, as the bullet progressively destabilizes and disintegrates as successive layers are encountered.

Federal Tactical in .223 has impressive penetration, even with layered barriers, but, at over one dollar/round, no one is going to be able to buy very much of it. Based on my experience, I'm confident Cor-Bon DPX would render similar, or

In the domestic police business, plan on having to penetrate parts of cars.

even better, performance.

Bonded-core pistol bullets did best. Without a bonded core, pistol bullets tend to shed their jackets. Pistol bullets do best when they stay together and don't break up.

A Cor-Bon .357 PowerBall (100gr) bullet penetrated clothing and still yielded 11 inches of penetration in gelatin, doing massive damage between 3 and 6 inches. It's the round I carry in my SIG229/DAK and my G32.

#### Conclusions:

In the domestic police business,

plan on having to penetrate parts of cars: .223 55gr hardball does poorly on cars. Federal Tactical and Cor-Bon DPX will do much better.

The human body can absorb an astounding amount of ballistic trauma and still remain fully functional. We have to train ourselves to strike the target multiple times along the body midline while protecting ourselves via cover and/or movement. Finish the fight!

*Author of The Farnam Method of Defensive Handgunning and one of the country's preeminent independent firearms instructors, Farnam may be reached at JSFarnam@aol.com.*

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DEALERS WANTED

# VN Vets For The Truth

## Thousands Of Vietnam Vets Rally Against Kerry

BY DR. MARTIN BRASS

"I'm a redneck born in the U.S.A. ... at the drop of the hat I'm ready to stand my ground and challenge anyone who comes my way and tries to take my freedom away."

The patriotic country-western music of Ray Cornelius blasted across Capital Hill in Washington D.C. as an estimated five to eight thousand Vietnam Vets gathered from across the country to join the rally organized by Captain Larry Bailey, USN (Ret).

"I'll never forget heroes crying ... these hurtful memories will haunt me till I die," the deep voice chanted.

The timeless lyrics applied to a different time and a different place — 30 some years ago. The memories of the pain brought by John Kerry and other anti-Vietnam War activists' actions in the early seventies had brought this group together.

"I waited for this moment for 34 years" one of the speakers, nurse Captain Donna Rowe told me. "He (John Kerry) called us a generation of monsters, and baby killers."

She was highly agitated. Once more she had experienced tragedy — her younger brother had just died. Although she hesitated to leave her grieving mother, she made the journey. "My 90-year-old mother told me I had to do this for my country," she said after the rally.

Her emotional and passionate presentation to the crowd symbolized the purpose of the rally. She and "her men" had saved a Vietnamese baby girl with shrapnel in her chest who they named Cathleen. The medical staff and soldiers had nurtured Baby Cathleen, who had lived and moved to the United States.

"We did not kill babies, as we were accused of having done, we saved them," she said.

"I recovered from what the North Vietnamese did to me," Dexter Lehtinen, former U.S. attorney, who addressed the crowd later, told *Human Events*. Lehtinen, whose face was disfigured by a mortar, said "the next thing I remember is people telling me, 'that guy is calling you Genghis Kahn.'"

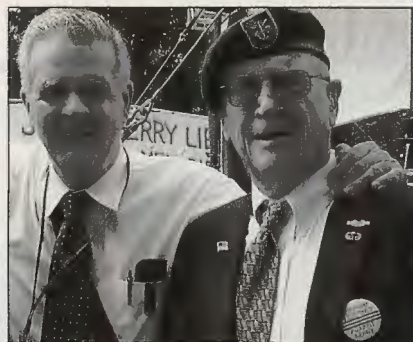
POW Jim Warner told of being tortured ruthlessly and of being forced to read statements made by Kerry that called him and his fellow prisoners and U.S. soldiers baby killers.

"Leave John Kerry to command the largest vessel he's ever competently handled — his surfboard," B.G. Burkett, known for his extensive research in his book *Stolen Valor* that exposed fraudulent Vietnam vets said.

Steve Pitkin, a soldier interviewed by John Kerry and his "Winter Soldier" crowd and quoted in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearings of 1971, told of recanting his



Thousands of Vietnam Veterans gathered on Capitol Hill for a rally against John Kerry sponsored by Vietnam Veterans for the Truth. Here, James Warner, a five-year POW, describes how North Vietnamese used Kerry's statements to pressure POW's.



SOF Publisher Robert K. Brown and rally organizer Larry Bailey grip and grin at rally. Brown served in the Special Forces in Vietnam; Bailey as a SEAL.

story and asked for forgiveness from his brothers at the Rally.

Carol Crowley, the daughter of SGT Jack Gell, the dying soldier depicted in the book and movie *We Were Soldiers Once And Young* spoke of the struggles of losing a father as a child. Gell's last words before he died were, "Tell my wife I love her."

Rugged members of the "Rolling Thunder" bikers, taking their security duties seriously, made their presence felt in the crowds. Police, expecting violence, marched through the crowds. The only action they saw was to march a scraggly group of pro-Kerry protestors out and to escort a 57-year-old Bobby Mueller, John

Kerry supporter and president of the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation off the grounds after he boisterously interrupted the rally.

The peaceful rally lasted two hours. Once more, the Vietnam vets were drawn together to defend their service to their country and to vindicate those that had fallen.

What John Kerry did for this crowd may not have been intentional and may not be recognized by those who felt betrayed. In making his Vietnam War record a calling card for his presidential race, in glorifying himself, he glorified all of those who served in Viet Nam. ✘

*Note: Though the Washington Times covered the rally, the N.Y. Times and the Washington Post did not. U.S.A. Today printed a photo of VVAW President Bobby Mueller, focused only on his interruption of the rally, and even refused to identify the title of the rally.*

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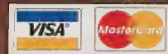
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BY DR. MARTIN BRASS

## AMERICA AT WAR

**1. UNITED STATES** LET THEM EAT CAKE: Homeland Security failures — no reliable terrorist master watch-list in place for monitoring flights; Fleeing and removing shoes at airports and “no fly” list screenings have been worthless (“COLOSSAL WASTE OF MONEY” said Sen. Byron Dorgan, [D] N.D.) Transportation Security Administration throws awards ceremony costing \$461,745: “LIFETIME AWARD” given at banquet for airport security staff, although agency is only two years old — 583 award plaques cost \$81,000. Seven cakes cost \$1,850; three cheese displays, \$1,500. Organizer was paid \$85,552 and similar amount for providing goodies. Transport to posh hotel in D.C. cost \$200,000. Bonuses @ \$16,000 each given to more than 88 senior executives, 38 of which were unjustified. Recruits work out of lush resort hotels with golf courses, pools and spas; \$3.3 BILLION FUND DEFICIT reported. Homeland Security Inspector General Erwin reports that security screeners perform poorly and airport security is lax. (CBS/AP)

**2. GUANTANAMO BAY** INTERROGATIONS of 600 detainees have not prevented a single terrorist attack, according to senior watch officer of Joint Intel Task Force-Combating Terrorism, Lt. Col Anthony Christino. *Guantánamo: America's War on Human Rights*, book by David Rose, claims “screening” process “hopelessly flawed from the get-go.” Untrained new recruits relying on incompetent interpreters are “far too poorly trained to identify real terrorists from ordinary Taliban militia.”

**3. HAITI** UN commander blames Kerry for much of violence for his call for troops to protect Aristide. (Strategyworld) HUMANITARIAN RESCUE UNIT to be deployed by Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador and Nicaragua to quell rampant violence. PRESIDENT ARISTIDE still in exile since 200 killed in coup in February.

**4. INDONESIA** FRENCH EMBASSY Ministry of Foreign Affairs alerts its worldwide missions following a bomb blast outside its embassy in Paris that injured 10.

**5. LONDON** TERRORISTS JOIN ARMY: al-Qaeda terrorist suspects try to join the U.K. 40,000 Territorial Reserve Army (TA). Recruits have access to military helicopters, caches of weapons, fuel installations and strategic bases. Investigative agencies expose 10 terrorist applicants. (*Straight Times*)

**6. RUSSIA** CHECHNYAN MAFIA wreaks havoc through violent kidnapping, drug and arms smuggling, and extortion. CHECHNYAN WARLORD Shamil Basayev threatens attacks in the Caucasus in support of Islamic radicals.

**7. SPAIN** BASQUE TERRORIST leaders, Mikel Antza and Soledad Iparraguirre arrested after French find 55 lbs. of dynamite, 61 pistols, anti-tank grenade and assault rifles. ETA, Basque separatist group, is blamed for 800 deaths in its movement for independence in Northeast Spain and Southwest France. HIGH COURT BOMBING foiled by arrests of seven Islamic militants in preemptive raids.

**8. EGYPT** MASSACRE of 27, mostly Israelis; al-Qaeda suspected.

**11. IRAQ** UNDECLARED CIVIL WAR! 90% of dead are Iraqis. COALITION of U.S. and Iraqi troops target Sunni Arab and terrorist gangs. Stealthy troops, provided with Intel by citizens, surround compounds at night, seizing weapons and bomb equipment. MERCY ON A MONSTER Iraqi doctors operate on Saddam for hernia in Ibn Sina hospital near U.S.-controlled Green Zone. CONVOY SECURITY demanded by embattled troops.

**12. SAUDI ARABIA** MOST WANTED murderous terrorist, Mohammad Al-Munir killed in shootout with security forces. Munir was member of "deviant minority" al-Qaeda in the Arab Peninsula: 16 of 26 on wanted list are dead or imprisoned, 10 are fugitives.

**13. SIERRA LEONE** BODY of former RUF field commander Sam "Mosquito" Bockarie, indicted for war crimes, sent to Sierra Leone for burial. Former Liberian Strongman Charles Taylor allegedly ordered ASSASSINATION of Bockarie in Liberia. CORPSE awaits conclusive DNA testing and identification.

**9. NIGERIA** 40,000 DIE yearly in three-year conflict. AMBUSHED: 60-member police unit hunting Islamic rebels attacked by radical Al Suynna wal Jamma group. (*Strategyworld*)

**10. INDIA** WEAPONS ALLIANCE with Israel announced. RASH OF ATTACKS — Dimapur train station, independence parade and tea plantation ripped by explosives. MARKETPLACE in Assam terrorized by gunman, 50 killed, 100 wounded.



# THE INCREDIBLE HULLIK

BY DALE B. COOPER

*Leathernecks Get a New Ride Into Battle*

**A**fter 30 years of riding the same steel stallion into battle, Marine infantry companies are going to change horses in the next couple of years.

General Dynamics is producing a new amphibian assault vehicle not far from Quantico, the "Crossroads of the Marine Corps." The vehicle not only has a new name, but also a new look.

When I first laid eyes on the next generation of infantry carrier being field-tested for the Marine Corps at Fort AP Hill in Virginia, I was overwhelmed by the size of the 38-ton green machine. It's beefy. Fully loaded with fuel, ammo and personnel, the EFV tips the scales at 76,000 pounds compared to just more than 50,000 pounds for the AAV.

The Expeditionary Fighting Vehicle, or EFV as it's called, is also about 3 feet longer than the latest model of the Amphibian Assault Vehicle, or AAV that is currently transporting Marines into Harm's Way in Iraq.

The top of the EFV turret is about the same height as the top of the upgun station on the AAV, but the top of the EFV hull is a little lower. At first glance, it looks a lot like its grandfather, the LVT-2, produced from 1943 to 1945.

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*(opposite) Expeditionary Fighting Vehicle being put through its paces at Camp Pendleton, California. Home of the 1st Marine Division, the unit that will receive the first of these advance amphibian assault vehicles or AAVs as trackers like to call them. (below) The advance amphibian assault vehicle [AAAV] being field tested for the Marine Corps at Camp AP Hill, Virginia looks like an AAV, the current model, on steroids. Some Leathernecks call it "The Incredible Hulk."*

Originally designed as logistic support vehicles, they were fitted with armor plate and Browning machineguns and pressed into battle at Tarawa in November, 1943 and Iwo Jima in February, 1945.

The EFV has about the same footprint as its predecessor. Its tracks couldn't be much wider and still be shipped by rail to ports on the east and west coasts, but that's where the similarities end. "It's not your Granddaddy's AAV," said Staff Sergeant Sam Shaw, a veteran tracker who is putting the EFV through its paces at AP Hill.

Standing beside the "Incredible Hulk" as a General Dynamics technician backed it out of its lair, Shaw told SOF, "The EFV is better in every way." The maximum range of the upgun weapon's station on amphibian assault vehicles being used in Iraq is around 2,000 meters, but Shaw says the main gun on the EFV can shoot farther and more accurately. "No more walking rounds onto targets," said Shaw as he sat in the gunner's chair.

The Mk 34 30mm Bushmaster cannon on the EFV is also much more lethal than the 25mm Bushmaster mounted on the Army's Bradley Fighting Vehicle. About 75% of the 600 rounds carried in the EFV are High Explosive Anti-Tank. These are tungsten long rod [APFSDST] Armor Piercing, Fin Stabilized, Discarding Sabot Tracer rounds that can destroy just about anything they hit. Gunners are really going to like the EFV. They no longer have to stand exposed behind their guns: They are safe from enemy fire below deck in air-conditioned comfort directing fire. They are also protected by improved armor plating.

Rocket-propelled grenades hit almost all of the AAVs that carried Marine infantry into Baghdad during the early





morning hours of 10 April 2003. Some were hit several times. An Amtrac from Bravo Company in front of the Humvee I was riding in was hit twice by RPG rounds that flew over the hood of "Gun-1," the lead Hummer in the Combined Anti-Armor Platoon of Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Regiment. Two Marines were seriously wounded, and another embedded journalist was shaken up.

Sergeant Gil Sandoval, a scout-sniper from H&S Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines rode into town atop First Lieutenant Nicholas Horton's track. Horton commanded 3rd Platoon in Alpha Company, the lead company, in 1/5's push to one of Saddam Hussein's favorite palaces on the Tigris River about 2.5 miles from the city center. Horton's Amtrac, Number 311, took three PGs. One of them shredded Horton's field pack, which was hanging over the fuel tank on the left side of the AAV. "The RPG hit a soft spot and went right through the track," recalled Sandoval, setting off the Halon system. Sandoval remembers not being able to see because of the smoke.

"We couldn't hear, either," said Sandoval, "because the blast rang our bell." Three Marines were wounded, one caught a piece of molten metal in the head, another in the cheek, and one in the shoulder, but none of the wounds was life threatening.

After the war, intelligence estimated more than 1,000 rocket-propelled grenades were fired at 1/5, the most decorated battalion in the Marine Corps, as it fought its way through the streets of Baghdad in the pre-dawn hours of April 10. Marines from the "Fighting Fifth," the unit this reporter was embedded with during the war, experienced similar problems during its second deployment to Iraq in the spring of 2004. Armed militiamen again fired from concealed positions in Fallujah, hitting one thin-skinned Amtrac from Bravo Company at least nine times.

"We took three hits on the bow," said 1st Lieutenant Christopher D. Ayres, "and at least seven RPGs in volley fire from both sides of the street." One of the PGs hit the gunner, killing him instantly, and knocking out the upgun station. Another ripped through the left side of the AAV where Ayres was sitting. It shredded the hamstring on his left leg and exploded in the engine compartment, starting a raging fire that melted part of the crew compartment.

Heavy machinegun [.50 caliber and 40mm] AAV armament is effective against enemy personnel and lightly-armored vehicles, but they're not heavy enough to tear down the walls of buildings where rebels were hiding in Fallujah. The 30mm Bushmaster on the EFV will be a superior weapon in future urban settings, because the HE rounds it fires have a one milli-second delay in the fuse, so they explode inside any obstacle they hit. The delayed detonation adds to fragments that are hurled in the enemy's face. The cannon is also very effective in opening doors in buildings being assaulted. No need for sledgehammers, or breaching tools. Much of the 25mm HEIT [High Explosive Incendiary Tracer] used in the Bradleys is a fused quick round that goes off as soon as it hits something. If you're

trying to breach a brick or concrete wall, the round goes off without actually penetrating the wall. Build in a little delay, and the round becomes a real "butt kicker."

In terms of mobility, Shaw says the EFV prototypes currently being tested at Fort Hill, Virginia, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland and the Assault Amphibian School at Camp Pendleton, California should eventually surpass the M1A1 tank. General Dynamics has been able to enhance the survivability of the EFV by incorporating the same digital fire control system as the M1A1. The Expeditionary Fighting Vehicle also has a second generation forward-looking infrared (FLIR) sight so gunners can shoot at night in all weather conditions.

Before Shaw let me crawl inside one of EFVs being tested at Fort AP Hill, he showed me what Marines are currently riding in. An AAV parked at the test facility on the sprawling Army base in central Virginia saw combat in the Gulf War.



Dale B. Cooper

*(left) Bravo Company's AAVs moving through the Rumalya oil fields in southern Iraq on the morning after the invasion. Gunner/crew chief in turret to the left, track commander to the right.*

*(below) Author in the driver's hatch of Advance Amphibian Assault Vehicle at Camp AP Hill, Virginia.*



USMC photo by Sgt. Sam Shaw

Shaw says this particular amphibian hit a land mine during the war. One can only imagine what happened to some of the crew and infantry crowded into the troop compartment. Armor on the belly of what Marines lovingly call the "Tuna Boat" is nothing more than a few inches of ballistic aluminum. This particular AAV was fitted with an armor appliqué kit purchased from Israel. Depending on the type of rocket-propelled grenades fired at it, the added armor can stop everything except shaped charges like HEAT [High Explosive Anti-Tank] RPG rounds, which can punch a hole through any AAV on the battlefield today, inflicting casualties. The Marine Corps learned that lesson in April 2003, and was painfully reminded of the AAV's vulnerability again in April 2004.

### Baptism by Fire

The base hull of the AAV7A1 won't stop a shaped charge, but it will stop .30 caliber armor piercing ammunition at 300 meters; basically the same level of the protection the Army's M113 armored personnel carrier affords. The appliqué armor kit added to many of the AAVs currently in Iraq gives added protection to 14.5mm rounds at 300 meters, but it's only attached to limited parts of the vehicle. There is no coverage on the aft [rear end] or bow [front end] of the vehicle, and little top armor protection from overhead artillery bursts. So, Colonel Clayton Nans, the Direct Reporting Project Manager for the new fighting vehicle, is not surprised that Iraqi gun-

*Sgt. Antonio M. Rivera, a Marine from Pittsburgh, lost his ISOMAT and USMC shaving kit when his pack was hit by one of 1,000 PGs fired at 1st Battalion, 5th Marines as they ran a gauntlet of fire into Baghdad on 10 April 2003.*



USMC photo by Sgt. Kevin Reed



*Marine Sgt. Jason Acord crewed a command variant of the AAV7A1, the current model, with 1st Battalion, 7th Marines in Iraq.*

ners are punching holes in AAVs.

"If you want to stop RPGs, which are basically anti-tank rockets, you've got to add heavy reactive armor plates, the sort of stuff the Army puts on its Bradley Fighting Vehicles, but as soon as you do that, you can't swim, and if you can't swim, you can't accomplish what we've got to do," said Nans, who has more hands-on experience in amphibious assault warfare than any other officer in the Marine Corps.

Shaped-charge PG rounds are designed to burn through 8 to 10 inches of homogeneous steel. At least two M1A1 main battle tanks have been torched in Baghdad by RPGs. So you can imagine how Marines feel about riding into battle in thin-skinned AAVs that unlike the EFV, carries their fuel internally. A direct hit can turn an AAV into a flaming coffin.

Col. Nans said about 16 of the 500 [enemy] armored vehicles destroyed during the war in Iraq were victims of what the Marine Corps calls "catastrophic kills." Ironically, most of the catastrophic kills were caused by ammunition piled inside the vehicle. The only ammo carried inside the Expeditionary Fighting Vehicle is what an individual Marine carries and the ammo needed for the 30mm Bushmaster cannon and 7.62mm coaxial machine-gun. The rest of the ammo is stored outside the troop compartment in separate compartments that are covered with ceramic armor.

### Increased Survival

The Marine Corps has known for years that its amphibian assault vehicles left a lot to be desired. It is a fact not lost on individual Marines like Clay Anderson, a former squad leader in Charlie Company, who will return to Iraq as a sniper when 1/5 deploys for an unprecedented third time in March. No more tracks for him. "The AAVs have seen their better days," said Anderson, adding they are, "beaten up and busted up." In the early 90s, the Corps was tasked to look at all manner of ways to get Marines from ship to shore.

"We looked at improving the old amphibian assault vehicle. We even looked at putting Bradleys on landing craft air cushioned, LCAC's for short," said Colonel Nans, "but when it came down to the most cost-effective means of taking care of our surface mobility requirements for both amphibious

*Continued on page 75*

MIAMI'S MAD MAX

# Marines

PART 6

BY DONALD SCHUTT

PHOTOS BY SERGEANT MICHAEL A. LOZANO  
& THE MARINES OF TOW/SCOUT MIAMI



THE KILLER ACCOUNT

## *The Insurgents Had a Good Attack Plan... Then Moreno Traversed his .50 Cal.*

Last month the Battalion Commander wanted to stop the Miami Marines in a very bad place.

**D**elta Company Tanks changed their position in the column. They had been the rearmost of the three lead Tank Companies. Now they fell back to the rear of the combat train. The Americans were trying to protect the column by having at least some tanks cover the rear. They were now the next to the last element in the column just before Panther Scouts.

Back with the Combat Train, Corporal Alexander Tabares, of Miami Lakes, FL, was with Steel Section guarding the supply train as it

*An Iraqi MTLB and a BMP-2 bear the scars from an encounter with the Marines. The superior drive and training of the Marines won the day. Most of the Marines were in Hummers with little or no armor protection and were poorly armed compared to many of the Iraqis.*

rolled forward. Delta tanks were lagging well behind. This made Corporal Tabares' HUMMV the column's rearmost vehicle. He was effectively the rearguard of that part of the column.

He felt kind of alone at the back of the march. He was not sure what kind of rear security he could provide with his light armament. All he had was an M16 rifle. He had been shooting and getting shot at all day. Facing to the rear, he saw troops wearing black ninja-like outfits running from bunker to bunker to his right. He started to shoot at them. He then saw a small mud brick house 50 meters from the highway that for some reason bothered him.

Corporal Tabares: "We were in the rear, and I remember passing a truck that was on fire, and it had rounds cooking off. Then we got to some oil trenches.

There is like this little house, and for some reason I start getting a funny feeling about it. As soon as I turn to and look at the house — bang! I got shot. I fell into the vehicle."

Corporal Tabares was shot

# **INSTANT RIDES AGAIN**

from close range. He took two bullets almost simultaneously. The rounds hit him at the nearly the same time and in nearly the same place. The automatic burst from an AK must have come from very near his position. One round scraped his right chest wall and exited. The other round went through his right arm between the shoulder and the elbow. It was a clean wound with no broken bones but he was bleeding.

Tabares' driver, Lance Corporal James Ramirez, of Pembroke Pines, FL, got on the radio and reported that his corporal had been shot. The word came back that there was no space left in the ambulance.

The wounded Marine knew that a corpsman was riding on the M88 tank recovery vehicle a little further ahead.

Corporal Tabares: "I was in there for literally an hour. They said they had no space left in the ambulance and I would have to hold on. So I told him, 'Well, punch it! Go around the 88 (the M-88 recovery vehicle) and just punch it straight forward.' So that's what he did."

Tabares' vehicle only had two people in it. So with him wounded, nobody was providing security for his vehicle. Steel's Section Leader, Staff Sergeant David Halpin of Wilton Manors, FL, had his vehicle drive up in order to provide security for his wounded Marine.

The Corpsman got out of the M88 and took a quick look at him. Staff Sergeant Halpin got his first aid kit and began to dress Tabares wounds. Then the column moved out with Tabares still in his HUMMV.

### Military Base

About a mile and half down the road the terrain changed from semi-rural houses and small villages to military warehouses. It was obvious that the large buildings were part of a military base. The buildings were painted green and sand camouflage. Some had military camouflage netting strung about on them. On the left side of the road were motor pools with trucks and maintenance facilities. On the right side of the road there were barracks and tents in addition to the warehouses.

Sergeant Moreno was up near the front of the column, traveling just behind Charlie Company Tanks: "On the right



*Sgt. Moreno and SSgt. Torres pose together after surviving a well-planned ambush by the Terrorists of the Islamic Jihad Organization. Bronze Section, commanded by SSgt. Torres, took 3 casualties during the first minute of the fight. Sgt. Moreno's aggressive and skilled use of his heavy caliber machinegun allowed his comrades to extract themselves from the kill zone.*

hand side we did see a lot of compounds with hootches and tents and soldiers in them. The Iraqis started firing on the tanks. I thought to myself that's a wasted effort there. The tanks are just going to destroy them. But then when the fire started reaching our vehicle I could see the reason they are trying to fire on them. They were really trying to get to us."

Sergeant Moreno caught sight of about twelve armed soldiers, half of whom were wearing white helmets, behind a small berm on the right side of the road. He turned his .50-caliber machine gun toward them and fired right through the berm. The powerful bullets had no trouble penetrating directly through the earthen barrier. He pumped all of the 60 rounds remaining in his ammo can into the target. The Killer Accountant's efforts had an immediate effect. He saw the white helmets roll away as their owners were hit. He reached down and put a fresh can of ammo onto the big gun.

On the right side of the road, only 50 meters from his last target, Sergeant Moreno saw a group of tents. They were neatly laid out in military precision in two rows of three a mere 75 meters from his position. The large 50-person tents were arranged as if to serve as a temporary barracks. Armed Republican Guard Soldiers started to exit the tents:

Sergeant Moreno: "I could see that inside that compound there were tents. Soldiers started coming out of the tents as



*Marine poses in front of yet another destroyed BMP-2. Although the BMP-2 is armored and packs a 30 mm cannon the Iraqi forces did not use it effectively. Movement of armored vehicles such as the BMP-2 inevitably drew American Airpower. American command of the skies prevented effective maneuver by regular Iraqi forces.*

well. So I shot at them and started firing at the tents. Cloth is not going to stop a .50-caliber round.”

Sergeant Moreno saw a few more of them come out. He signaled to Sergeant Pavon and Sergeant Dale, in the vehicles behind him in the column, to direct their vehicles to fire on the target. More Iraqis fell.

### **Republican Guard**

The column continued to move. As Bronze Section faded down the road the tanks of Alpha, following in trace of Bronze Section continued to clean up the Republican Guard Base behind. A few kilometers down the road things heated up again.

Staff Sergeant Torres relayed to his vehicle gunner, Sergeant Moreno, that the tanks were taking fire up ahead from RPG's on the left. The Iraqis had learned that some of the American vehicles were unable to shoot to the left. Most of the RPG attacks would come from that side. Sergeant Moreno had his gun oriented right, so he swung it around to the left.

An RPG round flew from the left just in front of Torres and Moreno's vehicle. A second RPG round landed five feet short of Corporal Goeller's vehicle, which was just behind and left of Moreno's, where it exploded, flinging shrapnel against the HUMMV's side.

Sergeant Moreno responded to the RPG with .50-caliber

fire. Two of the RPG gunners were torn apart by his fusillade. Some of the .50-caliber API (armored-piercing incendiary) rounds hit a truck in which RPGs were cached. The enemy storage truck started to burn. It then exploded with a large secondary explosion scattering burning RPG rounds through the area.

Sergeant Moreno: “First it caught on fire, and we were moving real slow, and I look back and I see another RPG flying out of the vehicle, but I can see there is nobody in there. Then I see the RPGs taking off everywhere from the explosion.”

The column continued down the road past a developed area of apartments, some as tall as five-stories, on the right. As the Marines passed the built-up area Moreno began to see more Iraqi soldiers. The Republican Guard soldiers were coming up out of trenches on the side of the road and firing point-blank into the side of an M1A1 tank. The tank stopped, rotated its turret toward the Iraqis and mowed them down with its coaxial machine gun.

Sergeant Moreno: “I saw many soldiers coming out of the ditches trying to fire on the tanks. We've talking about maybe five to ten feet from the tanks. They start rushing the tanks and shooting their AKs. The tankers would just stop, halt, and then turn their turrets around. Turn their turrets and just walk their fire into these people.”

Even in the midst of this close-quarters fight the Marines would try to stick to their rules of engagement. The Marines had been instructed to not shoot at unarmed soldiers who were running away.

Sergeant Moreno: "I saw one man escape from the tanks, and I was going to shoot him, but he didn't have a weapon, so I let him take cover. He went behind what appeared to be one of those container boxes. I kept my eye on him just in case he might have had a weapon.

Some of the things these people were doing was they would play this game that they would surrender to you, or drop their weapon and take off running north or south, and someone else would pick up the gun while you were watching the first guy and start shooting."

### Duplicity With a Purpose

The Iraqi military leadership had apparently been training their troops to conduct these seemingly stupid phony surrender tactics. It would seem that if the Iraqis had spent more time on marksmanship rather than dirty tricks they might have done better in slowing down the American advance. The duplicity of the Iraqis, however, had a purpose. It was to keep the Americans on edge, and to make it a dangerous proposition for their own troops to surrender. It also made it very burdensome for the Americans when they did take prisoners. In Desert Storm some units took thousands of prisoners, who only needed to be guarded by a couple of Marines. In Operation Iraqi Freedom one never knew what one was going to get with a surrendering Iraqis — docile compliance or homicidal trickery. Even a few prisoners could become a huge burden.

### Noon — 4 April: Ambush!

As the column moved slowly forward Moreno caught sight of a burning white truck on the right. Parked by the truck was another civilian vehicle. As the second to the last of Charlie Company's tanks came abreast of the vehicle it exploded. The car bomb's huge blast nearly knocked Sergeant Moreno's helmet off from 60 meters away. A piece of shrapnel from the explosion fell out of the sky and plopped down on Moreno's turret, smoking white-hot. He brushed it away

with a spent .50-caliber cartridge.

Corporal Goeller, commanding the vehicle behind Moreno's, was trying to shoot an enemy who had popped-up on the left hand side of the highway. The huge explosion startled him. He glanced to the right and saw the explosion. "There was a tank and then a car bomb. You saw the whole car lift off the ground. You saw a big black cloud."

Sergeant Dale, in the fourth HUMMV in Bronze's staggered column, saw the explosion from about 500 meters back. "There is an enormous explosion ahead of us. I couldn't see personally what it was up there, but it was incredibly loud. The explosion was huge."

### Islamic Jihad

The car bomb was evidence that the Marines were starting to run into the area controlled by non-Iraqi Arab volunteers from the "Islamic Jihad" organization. These Islamic fanatics, men who shared Osama bin Laden's ideals, and dreams, had traveled to Iraq at Saddam's request.

The "Islamic Jihad", or PIJ which stands for Palestine Islamic Jihad (*Harakat al-Jihad al-Islami al-Filastini*), is a Syrian based terrorist group with bases in Lebanon. Lebanon, of course, is completely controlled by Syria. So here we have Islamic fanatics, who were inspired by the Iranian revolution, supported by the secular Ba'ath regime in Syria, who are sitting in wait for the Americans in order to support another secular Ba'athist regime in Iraq.

Talking heads whine and moan about "links" between Saddam and the Islamists, who he supposedly hates, but here is an example of how close those links could become when he wanted them to.

These terrorists, who command-detonated the bomb, were using a tactic that worked for them against defenseless civilians in shopping malls, but in a stand-up military fight with tanks they were useless.

Sergeant Moreno: "It didn't even put a dent on the vehicle. It didn't even have like dirt or a black silhouette or signature on it, nothing happened. It scared the crew a little bit, but other than that nothing happened".

About two kilometers up the road, at the village of Salman Al Juburi, the terrorists of Islamic Jihad were waiting in



The American forces hurtling toward Baghdad basically consisted of a single file of vehicles rolling down Route 6. 2nd Tank Battalion led the way smashing through everything the Iraqis did to try to stop them. Infantry Battalions following in trace cleared and held the route for follow-on forces. (inset) An Iraqi Surface to Surface missile captured by the Marines before Saddam's Republican Guards Al Nida division could fire it.



ambush. They had turned a berm and drainage canal located on the left side of the highway into a nest of RPG gunners. On the right side of the highway snipers were concealed.

Further up the highway past the intersection where 2nd Tank Battalion planned to turn north was a village market of two-story shops. The buildings, painted a cheerful yellow, had been topped with the hulks of cars and buses for use as bunkers. Oil was being pumped into specially constructed flame trenches designed to blind and separate the approaching Americans. It was a well-designed trap.

The troops of the Islamic Jihad were veteran terrorists, Islamic fanatics from throughout the Moslem world. They came from different countries: Egypt, Yemen, Syria, and Lebanon, but they had traveled to Iraq for a common purpose. To die fighting the Americans. Many of them would get their chance.

The column continued up the road with the Tiger Scouts leading followed closely by the six M1A1 tanks of Charlie Company. Sergeant Moreno, in the lead vehicle of Bronze Section TOWs came next. The rest of Bronze Section was spread out behind. Close behind were the tanks of Alpha Company.

#### Ambush Left

As the column approached ambush site Sergeant Moreno kept his big gun pointed to the right, which was his sector of fire.

Staff Sergeant Torres was the first of the Bronze Section Marines following in trace of the tanks to notice the Jihadists waiting for them. "I specifically remember seeing them there. I told Moreno, "These guys are waiting for us, they are on the berms." That's when all hell broke loose".

Staff Sergeant Torres: "Ambush left! Ambush left!"

The driver, Corporal Erick Jimenez, started pulling on Sergeant Moreno's trouser leg yelling "The ambush is on the left side!"

Sergeant Moreno responds: "I know, I know, but you need to slow down, and you need to put me on the other side of the road, so I won't have to shoot through the tanks." The tanks were very close to their vehicle and were blocking Moreno's line of fire.

The tanks ahead halted as the lead tank engaged a target. The three tanks that were on the left side of the divided highway rotated their turrets left and started to hose-down the area with 7.62 mm fire from their coaxial machine guns. Then they began to roll forward at about five mph.

Sergeant Moreno: "We hear on the radio that the tanks are receiving fire from the left hand side. I see the tanks from Charlie Company, the three that were on the left side of the divided highway aiming in. They start firing their coaxial guns at people. These people were all dressed as civilians but

*Marines from Miami pose in Kuwait. Upon arrival in Kuwait the reservists were integrated with the regular Marines of 2nd Tanks.*

they all had AK's. They were wearing the typical white or gray robes; they had the towel or headgear either red checkers or black checkers. Some had black trousers with a buttoned shirt. None of them were wearing uniforms."

As the rearmost tank, which was in front and left of Sergeant Moreno's HUMMV, continued its slow movement two RPGs exploded against the tank in rapid succession. One hit the main hull. The other hit the backside of the commander's hatch and exploded. The tank loader's hatch located on the left side of the turret was open. It was a hot day and the crew needed the ventilation. Since the open hatch of the commander's position was canted back above the open loader's hatch the explosion of the RPG was deflected downward and into the tank. It was either a well-aimed or a very lucky shot. The loader, Corporal Bernard Gooden, 22-years-old, of Mount Vernon, NY, was instantly killed. 2nd Lt. Adam Markley, commanding the tank, was initially stunned by the explosion.

#### Reverse to Assist

The second to the last tank, which was on the right side of the divided highway, reversed to assist the stricken tank in the rear. It drove back adjacent to the right of its comrade.

A Marine tanker bravely exited the tank and moved to assist. Snipers were firing. Bullets bounced off the tanks. RPGs were still flying through the air. The tanker grabbed Markley and lifted him from the tank. It was quickly ascertained that he was only a little punch-drunk from the explosion. He was placed back in his position.

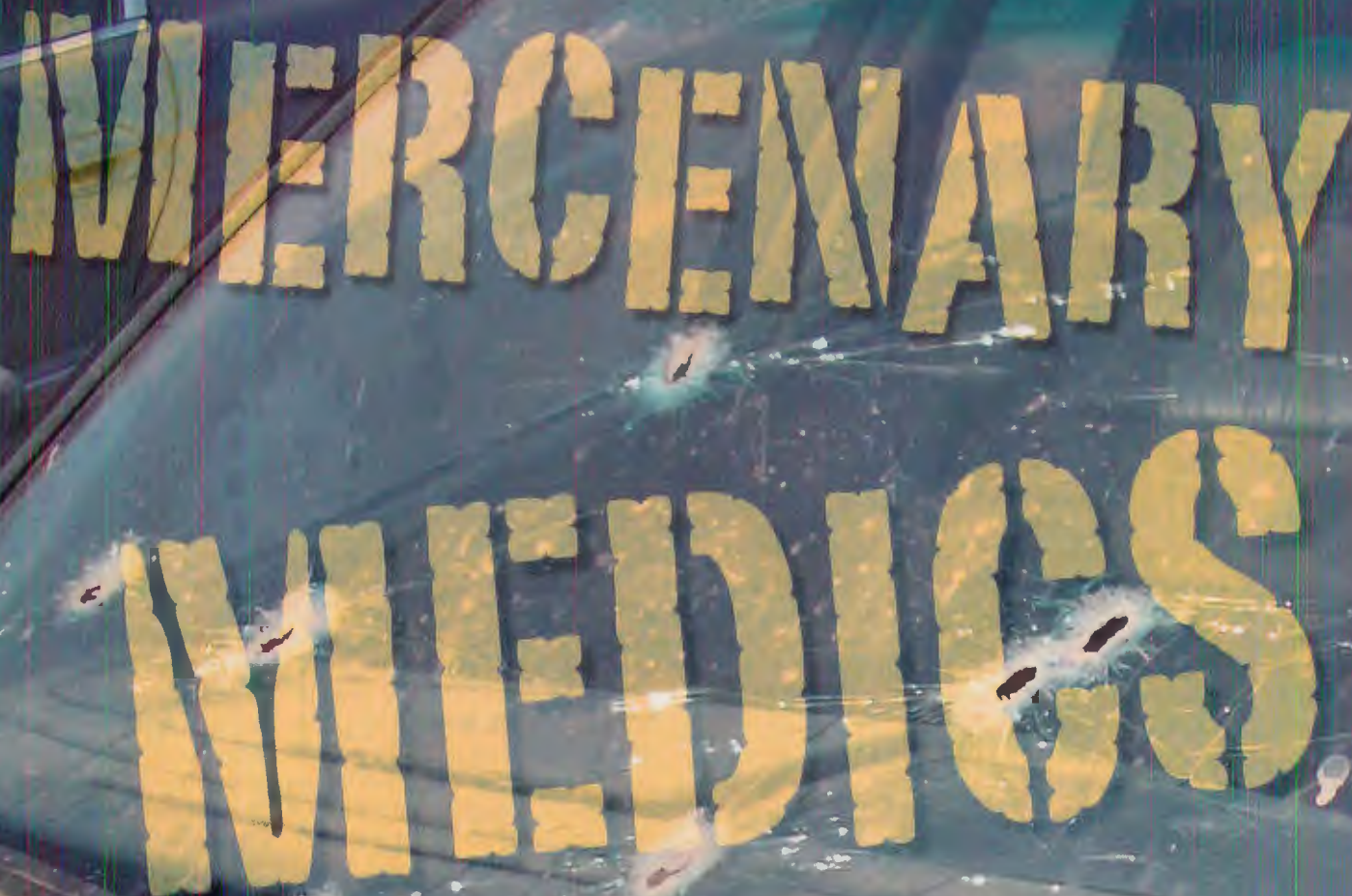
The Marine jumped across the turret and tried to extract Corporal Gooden, but it was obvious that he was dead. His body was allowed to remain in the tank. The Marine entered the turret of the tank and began assisting the remaining crew in firing on the Terrorists.

Staff Sergeant Torres was in the passenger seat of the lead HUMMV following the tanks. "They had oil fires. They had dug trenches. They set the oil fires up so that they ... there were lots of oil trenches. They cut them at different angles on the road and they were burning. On top of that the guys were dug in. They were waiting for us on the sides of the road".

*Next month the Miami Marines get stuck in an ambush zone.*

*Donald Schutt is a Lt. Col. USMCR. He is a Desert Storm veteran, and former OIC of TOW/Scout Miami. He is an air-line pilot. ✉*





# EMERGENCY MEDICS

*"I'll Treat Your Wound As Soon As I Kill This Mother..."*

BY DEVIN BENSON

**A** pounding on my hotel room door shattered my lazy Baghdad afternoon. "Gear up. You'll need your full combat load out. It's on."

We assembled in the hallway, wearing body armor, carrying AK-47s. There was a repeated mechanical clacking as the men loaded their weapons, and checked to verify that a round was chambered.

Their pistols were also chambered, hammers cocked, before being holstered. Each man completed his check and found a place in the hallway to wait for the briefing. They were restless and ready to go. What we knew was that some of our teammates had gone on a reconnaissance mission and were ambushed.

They were under heavy fire, and had sustained casualties. We were going into battle to get our men out. As we waited for a complete briefing, some devoured power bars,

or snickers bars, and drank as much water as they could. They grumbled loudly about waiting for a briefing "while our guys are dying out there."

As a paramedic with a military background, I'm no stranger to weapons and wars. I have been shot at in the United States; I have taken cover from artillery in Sarajevo, and have avoided military confrontations in many countries around the world. I served in both Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. I have treated many combat casualties.

But this was the first time in which I would participate in an attacking force. This would be my first time where I would be part of a team who was actively seeking the fight. All my military training was about to be put to its ultimate test.

I grabbed my trauma kit and moved into the hallway, to assemble with the men. I put a photojournalist vest on over



my body armor and went over what medical supplies I had placed in which pocket. I quickly ate a Snickers bar and drank some Gatorade. Finally, I loaded my AK-47 and my Browning HP. I was carrying 333 rounds of ammunition. I was ready for the mission; I was ready for the fight.

The word paramedic has lost almost all meaning in Iraq. Paramedic implies a certain skill level and a license. In Iraq, men call themselves medics or combat medics. However, while many of these men may have some knowledge, training and experience, many do not even have a basic EMT license.

#### **"Hey, Doc!"**

But if they can convince an employer they can do the job, they are hired as a medic. If the team accepts them, they lose their own name and are simply called "Doc."

As the United States has worked to reduce the number of military forces in Iraq, the need for security has increased. Consequently, the U.S. military has allowed and encouraged the use of private organizations to provide security.

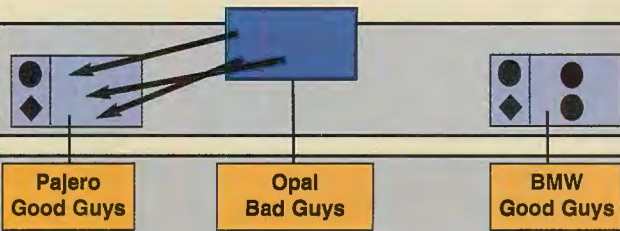
These private security operators are all former military personnel. Most of these men have worked with military special forces or other elite units. They come not only from the U.S., but also from the U.K., South Africa, and even Denmark. They have worked "security" in places like the Balkans, Angola, Sierra Leone and Columbia.

While some of the more professional organizations, such as Triple Canopy, may have full trauma centers with trauma surgeons and complete medical wards, most will opt to have the absolute minimum resources required. In contract

## MOBILE AMBUSH ON HIGHWAY 8

### Initial Attack

← (Forward Speed in Excess of 150 km/hr)

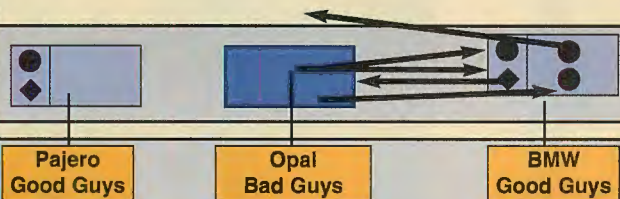


● Shooter  
◆ Driver  
← Shooting Direction

**Notes:**  
1. Passenger in Pajero did not engage.  
2. Attacking car is unaware of second car behind them.

### Defender Response

← (Forward Speed in Excess of 150 km/hr)

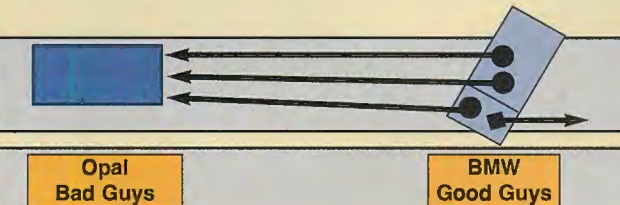


● Shooter  
◆ Driver  
← Shooting Direction

**Notes:**  
1. BMW left-rear seat passenger leans out window to engage target.  
2. BMW right-rear seat passenger unable to engage.  
3. BMW front-seat passenger not engaged.  
4. BMW driver engages with psitol through windshield.

### A Possible Defense

Defender car makes a quick stop with 60 degree turn.



● Shooter  
◆ Driver  
← Shooting Direction

**Notes:**  
1. All defenders are shooting right-handed and from a stationary position.  
2. Rear-seat passengers both shoot from the right side window.  
3. Driver provides rear coverage during firefight.  
4. Attackers are now outgunned and firing from disadvantaged position.



*Author served as a flight medic in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. In his present position, bullets are as necessary as bandages.*

work, minimum resources result in maximum profit.

While the corporate security office will be counting the dollar signs, the combat medic will be counting his bandages and wondering if he can do the job he was paid to do. Medics are forced to scrounge from the military to find basic medical supplies such as IV fluids. Advanced cardiac life support (ACLS) medications and equipment such as a cardiac monitor or automated external defibrillator (AED) are considered unnecessary pieces of equipment. Unless the security company's client requests such equipment, that equipment will not be provided.

When asked about AEDs in Iraq, the country director of one security company stated, "If a guy has a heart attack out here, he's going to die. That's just the way it is."



*"Baby Doc" and a Kurdish contractor share guard duty at entrance to worksite living quarters. When half the team quit, the Kurds replaced them. Only one of the 10 Kurds had a working knowledge of English.*



*(above) Company "clinic" was basic to say the least. Consisted of a cot, bandages, IV fluids and some medications and was capable of handling a minor injury but not a major trauma or multiple patients. (right) British contractor takes a break from the Iraqi heat.*



If a medic is able to acquire the supplies he needs, he is faced with many other difficult tasks. The medications available may have different names and he will need to have a resource available to look up the medication and the dosage. Morphine cannot be bought in Iraq, so medics must have an alternative.

A local physician has stated that the Iraqis use a combination of toradol and Valium to achieve pain reduction, with great success. Antibiotics are plentiful in Iraq, but medics need to know which antibiotics are best for various medical problems. Consequently, a medic in Iraq needs to have a wide knowledge base and the ability to research drugs and their usage for the environment in which he is working.

Of course in Iraq, medics are not hired solely for their medical abilities. Mercenary medics are shooters first and medics second. When I arrived at Baghdad International Airport, before I ever left the parking lot, I was issued an AK-47, and given a spot in the car with a specified field of fire. While transporting clients from the airport to the worksite, I was a security specialist, with a responsibility to the principle; the medical kit was carried in the trunk of the car.

As a medic, I performed all other security duties required of the team. I pulled guard duty. I escorted the principles at the worksite. I provided security during motorcade operations in Baghdad and the surrounding areas. When our teammates were under fire, I was part of the rescue team.

### Rolling Ambush

In the case of the ambush of our team, the men had departed with two cars and seven people, to visit the work-



*This contractor, part of the team in Iraq also was part of the team that escorted Aristide into exile. He was one of the team that resigned due to employer refusing to improve security.*

site prior to the arrival of the clients. While on Highway 8, going south from Baghdad towards Karbala, the team encountered a rolling ambush. A car with four Iraqis set its target on the lead vehicle in the two-car convoy, and failed to realize the car behind it was part of the convoy. They pulled behind the lead car and started firing their AK-47s with deadly accuracy.

The lead vehicle received over 40 hits. Bullets shattered the windows on all sides. Five bullets pierced the driver's seat, yet only two rounds made contact with the driver. He was hit in both elbows. The left elbow received a through and through injury, while the right elbow received a bullet that lodged in the joint. But the driver continued to drive and maintain control while he frantically tried to evade the attackers.

The second vehicle in our team's convoy immediately engaged the Iraqi insurgents. Pirate leaned out the window and started firing three-round bursts that left a tight pattern of bullet holes in the rear window of the attackers car. Gunfire from the rear completely surprised the insurgents, and they

swerved wildly for a moment, before they started firing out the rear window of their car. Bullets tore through the front windshield of the trailing car, as the GPS on the dashboard exploded in the face of the front passenger.

All three cars swerved violently down the highway as the gun battle sprayed lead in every direction.

The rest of the team in the rear car joined Pirate in the counterattack against the insurgents. Baby Doc managed to get three rounds fired (he later said he had trouble getting the

*Continued on page 57*

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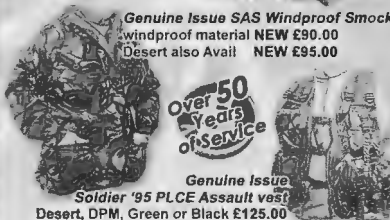
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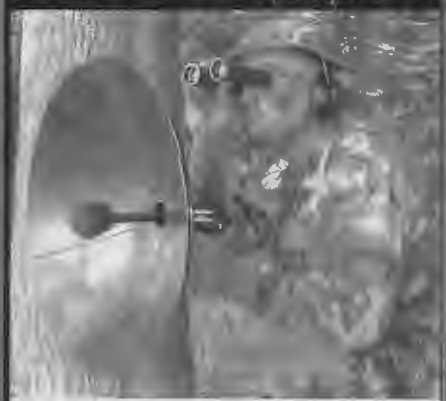
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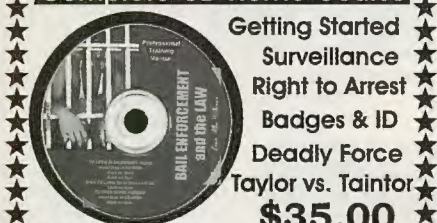
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## Mercenary Medics

Continued from page 51

AK from semi to full automatic ... Just one click up Baby Doc). The driver pulled his pistol and started firing through the front windshield at the insurgents. Pirate continued to fire accurate bursts at the swerving vehicle. A rolling ambush was now a high-speed chase on an Iraqi highway. The team had only been in country for two weeks and they were already in a firefight.

### Behind Enemy Lines

Missions are more dangerous than they have been in the past. Combat activity is greater than in most security jobs. Security companies cannot depend on coalition forces to come to their res-

all relieved to know that none of our friends had died. But this incident was just the beginning of tragedy that would befall this team.

### Mutiny

As of this writing, the team has suffered numerous setbacks. One of the biggest setbacks was the resignation of half the team. All at once, fifty percent quit, due to safety concerns. The company had not provided basic equipment, Runflat tires, and vehicle armor. There were also serious concerns about corporate and in-country leadership. Operators were fearful the team would encounter another ambush and not survive. This resignation, called a mutiny by the employer, occurred just twelve hours before the clients arrived in Iraq.

I stayed for another few weeks, until

**All at once, fifty percent quit,  
due to safety concerns.**

cue. In Iraq, employment with a security company does not put the security specialist on the front lines; it puts him behind enemy lines, with minimal resources, and little back up protection. This is not a job for an armchair warrior.

While I was in Iraq, my team was ambushed by the Iraqis and shot at by coalition forces. We were attacked with rockets and mortars on a regular basis. We caught local Iraqis spying on us. And several times a week, we drove motorcades through the most hostile areas of Baghdad.

In the case of our reconnaissance team that was ambushed on Highway 8, only one man was seriously injured. The driver had gunshot wounds to both arms. The other passengers had minor lacerations from glass exploding in their faces and on their arms, but there were no other bullet injuries. Pirate's accurate fire seemed to have done some damage; the attacking car swerved off the road and into the dirt. The convoy continued to run toward the worksite where they knew a military unit would be close by.

By that time a call had been placed to the rest of the team in Baghdad. We waited impatiently for more news. We were unaware the convoy was still moving. But the convoy arrived at the military site, and they medevaced our driver.

Our team leader came back into the hallway and told us we could stand down, that our team was safe. We were

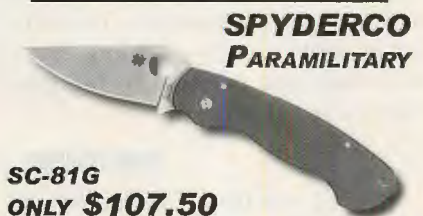
I realized that if I were shot, the medically unskilled Baby Doc would be more dangerous to me than the Iraqis. Within a week of my return home the team was ambushed a second time on Highway 8. Another four contractors were shot. This time the injuries were much more severe.

When I heard the news, I felt a certain amount of guilt for not being with the men on my team. In the short time I was with them, I learned to respect them. I was pleased that they respected me. It was a difficult decision to leave. But I also knew this was inevitable. So did the other members who resigned. I could have been one of the men who was shot in the face. Perhaps I would not have survived.

Perhaps, though, if I had been there, the outcome would have been different. There is no way to tell or to turn back the clock. But in hard times, a man has to consider his situation and determine if he can trust his employer, his team and his medic. If he cannot trust his team, it's time to leave. I made the right decision. When I find a team I can trust, I will return.

*Devin Benson RN, EMT-P is a paramedic and a critical care RN. He served as a flight medic in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. He frequently volunteers with international humanitarian organizations in hostile areas.* ✕

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# NAKED IN NAIROBI

## *Weaponless Society*

BY MIKE IRON

AS a gun-toting professional, I feel “naked” whenever I am not under arms whether by choice or by local law. Recently, I traveled to Nairobi, Kenya on a two-week security assignment. Despite Kenya’s violent history and the reputation of its fierce warrior tribes, its society, at least in theory, is one without weapons.

What this means is that the authorities and the bad guys are the only ones who have firepower.

Now, this might be tolerable if the police and military were proactive — or at least reactive when crime occurs. Unfortunately, corruption and bureaucratic indifference permeates all levels of Kenyan government and the boys in blue, tan and cammies in Kenya are often part of the problem rather than the solution. As a result, private security is a growth industry here.

Although guards are only authorized to carry clubs and batons, some have spears and a bow and arrow nearby. I give them a lot of credit for confidence and courage, but most home invasions involve gangs of 10 to 15 thugs, frequently armed with “illegal” Kalashnikovs and M16s. Most of the time, the guards providing residential security do not resist armed intruders, but initiate the alarm systems that will cause clients to “button up” and vector in partially armed private security response forces that patrol the neighborhood.

Response teams consist of two unarmed private guards and two armed policemen. The officers carry G-3 7.62x51 rifles and usually Sterling 9mm submachine guns. Response time of these roving patrols is a very credible three to five minutes.

### **Home Invasion**

While I was there, the flag went up at one of the protected residences. The “Long Rains” had arrived with a vengeance and the usual traffic jams and relaxed tempo of daily life slowed even more. Road flooding often makes it impossible to get anywhere and combined with water-filled craters in the tarmac, traffic at best, crawls. Even without these conditions, Nairobi is car-jacking and home-invasion paradise. Because of all the liquid sunshine, the homeowners elected to stay on the ranch and make sure they were not flooded out. Recognizing that the worst weather conditions can present the small unit leader with crucial tactical advantages, our urban bandits scaled the security fence while the



*Author, referring to Nairobi, observed, “Where else in the world can you get a sleek and powerful Cheetah to cover your six.”*

guards were hunkered down in their shacks trying to get dry. Fortunately, they were detected as they approached their FAP (Final Assault Point). A siren wailed, sending both audible and electronic signals to the house and Central Control.

Control identified the location in seconds and dispatched the nearest mounted Response Force. As they negotiated the main gate, the gang members opened up in a familiar spray-and-pray fashion while trying to clamber back over the chain link at the rear of the property. The two police officers debussed after the driver was wounded, convinced that the 4x4 truck was the object of the criminals attention and flood of fire. They countered in a similar manner and long and short rounds rent the humid air. Appropriately, the neighbors

still home took cover and the gang escaped chastised, but still hungry. Blood score: Bandits - 1, Security - 0.

However, although the bandits should never have gained access to the property in the first place and remedial action will be taken to prevent this in the future, the security forces carried out their primary mission to prevent actual penetration of the residence.

### Car Jackings

Terrorism appears to be way down on the concern list, and vehicle heists with owners included is the number-one criminal pastime in Nairobi. Even students at good old Nairobi U get into the act when power failures occur, and both external accessories and vehicle contents are ripped off to help pay for next semester's tuition. Usually the armed thugs, who are becoming more and more ingenious with their urban guerilla tactics, are primarily interested in your money, credit cards and cell phones. However, they have been known to force victims to empty their ATM accounts or use the driver to gain access to the home.

New car prices are out of this world in Kenya, and Japanese four-wheelers are at the top of the list for smuggling to customers across borders or selling to chop shops. A new Range Rover, which is less desirable for theft, can cost USD \$200,000. Nevertheless, it is a rugged, reliable ride that blends in with the community of cars on Kenyan roads.

My client purchased a used, but completely customized and rebuilt beast through well-known-and-respected Ranaild Schumacher for less than USD \$50,000. Schumacher tears the SUV completely down to its frame and provides a plethora of engine, suspension, and security and comfort options that you would be hard-pressed to acquire anywhere else for the same money. However, the deal clincher was when my client was able to drive over severely pot-holed and rubble-strewn secondary roads at speeds of 65 mph in relative comfort. Would-be car jackers will be plastered all over the bull bar if they get in the way, and everything but the heaviest road blocks will be shunted aside. Run-flat tires and rock-resistant glass propelled by a 280 BHP engine round out the fight-or-flight options.

### Modern and Primitive Weapons

Except for unarmed traffic officers who are more concerned about seat belt compliance than about easing congestion, police generally keep a low profile. The big exceptions are at some of the embassies, government buildings and the Jomo Kenyatta airport. Camouflaged-clad cops carrying G3s and MP5A2s, mixed in with Kalashnikov-armed blue coats and plain-clothes officers, appeared to

have things well in hand. Vehicle security checks are positioned about 800 meters from the terminal, and inspecting officers were backed by selective-fire weapons. However, fire sustainability appeared to be limited to one or two magazines.

Before the advent of firearms on the continent, edged and impact weapons held sway. Bow and arrows and javelins gave some stand off, but hand-to-hand usually determined the outcome. This type of traditional fighting and weaponry was emphasized during the infamous Mau Mau rebellion where white farmers and natives alike fell to razor-sharp Pangas. In 2004, years after independence and *Uhuruh* (freedom) people are still being hacked, slice and diced by the blade even though these implements are also forbidden by the government for self-defense.

In a legal vacuum, people take matters into their own hands and Kenyans are left to their own devices during both natural and man-made disasters. If you cross a Massai or a Samburu warrior, they may complain to authorities, but if action is not timely they will take matters into their own hands. If you are caught with a Panga in Nairobi by the police, you can stay out of jail if you can convince them that it is required for the work you are performing. And so it goes. Although Kenyans know how to enjoy themselves despite a high misery index, this is another condition-yellow, paranoid society.

Don't misunderstand. Like most of the world, the average Kenyan is honest and hard working and deeply religious. Churches, most Mosques, faith-based hospitals, schools and charities hold things together and foster a margin of discipline that keeps things from really getting out of hand.

Subjects, not citizens, belong to self-centered govern-

ments, but regardless of their status sane people will arm themselves with whatever is at hand, and in Kenya's case stout umbrellas are ubiquitous. Some of these "brollies" I am sure, contain some unsettling surprises. In dangerous countries where it is illegal to use arms to defend yourself, your greatest assets are your mind and a good pair of legs. The keys to survival, for people so handicapped by governments that do not trust its citizenry, are obviously awareness and avoidance. If it goes down, it can be crucial to possess enough personal ground speed to create as much distance as possible from the threat as quickly as possible, and preferably not in a straight line.

### Cosmetic Security

My hotel accommodations were excellent in all respects. But although it even had 24-7 security, it

*Continued on page 78*

## Embassy Bomber Captured

Ahmed Kalfan Ghailani, aka "Ahmed the Tanzanian" was captured recently in Gujrat Pak, Pakistan after a "fierce gunfight." Thirty years old, he was the key architect of the U.S. Embassy bombings in



Kenya and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. He had a \$5 million price on his head. Arriving in Pakistan on a Kenyan Airlines flight the day before the embassy bombings in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam, Ghailani was captured with weapons — and a computer containing emails regarding future plans for attacks on U.S. and British interests. It

is believed that since his move to Pakistan he had been involved in training suicide bombers, and at the time of his capture was preparing to leave Pakistan on false papers.

— M.I.

The new Springfield SOCOM 16 (left) is compared with the equally new Armalite AR-10 Carbine. The two have as much in common as not.



# THE SOCOM 16



# THE AR-10 CARBINE

*A Shootout Between Two Great New Carbines!*

TEXT & PHOTOS BY GARY PAUL JOHNSTON

**SIX**

decades ago two rifles emerged to fight it out on the battlefield of competition to see which one would be the new U.S. service rifle. They were the Armalite AR-10 and the T44. Both chambered for the 7.62x51mm NATO (.308 Win.) cartridge, one was developed at the great Springfield Armory, in Springfield, Massachusetts, and the other in the basement of tiny shop, and then at a brand-new Armalite Corp., a Division of Fairchild Engineering, in Costa Mesa, California.

Both rifles evolved from earlier rifles chambered for the .30-06 cartridge, in the case of the T44, the U.S. M1 Garand rifle. The AR-10 was conceived from the Johnson Rifle and the first prototype AR-10 was also chambered for the .30-06. Both rifles used 20-round box magazines and were capable of selective fire. Their predecessors were made in semi-automatic only and did not use detachable box magazines. Due in no small part to politics, the T44 was selected to become the U.S. Rifle, M14. Another contender, the T48, ultimately became the most widely issued .308 rifle of all time, as the FN FAL

Being largely a shortened, lighter version of the M1 "Garand," the M14 uses a detachable 20-round box magazine designed by John C. Garand, and a bipod, but its selective fire-feature was blocked by a selector lock on the vast majority of M14's issued, and for good reason: On full automatic, the M14 was far too uncontrollable to produce accurate fire.

In addition to its magazine, bipod and selective fire

capability, the M14 also differs from the Garand in other small details as well as one other major one, and that is its operating system. Instead of the more simplified long-stroke gas piston of the "Garand," the M14 uses a short-stroke gas piston with an automatic cut-off (White System) to delay and soften the unlocking of the bolt. Nevertheless, a substantial number of small parts are interchangeable between the two rifles.

### The H&R "Guerilla Gun"

During the Vietnam War, an interesting variation of the M14 rifle was developed by Harrington & Richardson, which produced the M14 under contract for the Government. Nicknamed the "Guerilla Gun," this carbine used an extremely short barrel that ended just in front of the gas cylinder. A conical flash hider/muzzle brake was attached at that point. The selective fire "Guerilla Gun" was produced only as a prototype.

With a changing of the times and ideas, the M14 was soon deemed less than suitable for combat in the jungles of Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War, and was replaced by a smaller version of the AR-10, the M16 rifle in 5.56x45mm (.223 Rem.), now the NATO standard. Production of the M14 ceased in the mid-1960's after having been produced by Springfield Armory, Winchester, Harrington & Richardson, and Thompson Ramo Wooldrich (TRW). With many M14 rifles subsequently given to countries such as Israel, Haiti and the Philippines, hundreds of thousands were also "mothballed" in America.



The majority of these were reportedly destroyed on orders from Bill Clinton during his Presidency.

The Springfield Armory had been permanently closed, and its name acquired and registered by the Reese family, of Geneseo, Illinois. The new Springfield Armory began manufacturing a commercial counterpart of the M14 in 1970. Called the M1A, this rifle is of a quality equal to, or better than the original M14. Basically identical to the M14, the M1A differs in one important aspect: It is made in semi-automatic only.

### The M1A Carbine

While most of the Springfield M1A rifles have been made in original GI issue configuration, the rifle is also offered in several National Match variations including the M25 "White Feather" dedicated to the memory of GSGT Carlos Hathcock, USMC. However, the M1A has also enjoyed great success in



With its S.I.R. System the AR-10 Carbine can fulfill most missions where a .308 caliber shoulder arm is preferred.

*Springfield's SOCOM 16 is the company's shortest version of its M1A and can use many optical sights.*

an 18-inch-barrel carbine version. Called the M1A Scout and later the Squad Scout, this shorter M1A features a M1913 style rail mounted on the barrel forward of the receiver, with the handguard opened to accommodate it. The Scout/Squad's barrel also features an efficient muzzle brake in place of the flash suppressor.

Due to its forward (Scout) rail mount, the M1A Scout/Squad lends itself for use with reflex sights including the Aimpoint Comp, the C-More, Eotech, Meprolight, and Trijicon Tri-Power and ACOG Reflex. It can also be used with any long eye relief (LER) scope, such as the "Scout" scopes offered by Leupold, Burris, and many other scope makers. If the use of a conventional scope is desired on the M1A Scout/Squad, Springfield Armory offers a conventional receiver side-mount on which almost any optical sight system can be mounted on its M1913 rail.

### SOCOM and Springfield

After Nine-Eleven, the U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) removed some 50,000 M14 rifles from the status of "mothballed," in order to put them to good use in the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT). SOCOM solicited for a commercial entity to convert the M14 into a configuration that could replace the M4 Carbine in special circumstances. Sage International entered the bidding and used a radical stock and other furniture to meet SOCOM's requirements. One of these necessitated the use of the shortest barrel possible while retaining the M14's standard gas system.

With the cooperation of Springfield Armory, Sage used a 16-inch barrel on its SOCOM M14 that measured just 16 inches, and ended just in front of the gas cylinder. This required the use of a special gas cylinder lock with an integral muzzle brake. Sage won the SOCOM bid, and is producing the unique conversion package for the Military, but that's only the beginning.

Recognizing the value of an even shorter version of its M1A Scout/Squad, Springfield Armory decided to equip this package with the new 16-inch barrel and special muzzle brake. The little M1A carbine is similar on concept to the old H&R "Guerilla Gun," but because the concept came from the carbine barrel built for the SOCOM rifle, Springfield's new M1A carbine is called the SOCOM 16.

While attending a preview of a pre-production SOCOM 16, I found the little carbine to handle more like a hot 22-250 than a .308, and to have even less recoil than the Scout/Squad Carbine. At the time, the carbine was fitted with the XS hooded front sight with the XS Ghost Ring rear sight and tritium-dot front sight. Not liking this sight, I stressed that the carbine should use the XS 24-7 front sight with its vertical white tritium bar and should also use more conventional protective ears instead of the hood that was too busy for my taste. Luckily, others felt the same way and a 24-7 winged front sight was ultimately designed by XS and adopted for the SOCOM 16.

An early carbine was also fitted with a short M1913 rail on its forend. I stressed that the gun should come with three such rails, one on each side and one on the bottom to accommodate various accessories, such as tactical lights and lasers. I also suggested that the standard M14 buttplate should be discarded in favor of a non-slip rubber butt, or at least to remove the folding portion of the butt to reduce weight. One other suggestion I made was the addition of the new M14 Buffer from Buffer Technologies.

This M14 Buffer is assembled onto the rear of the recoil spring just in front of the receiver. There, this tough little piece of polymer prevents the back of the operating rod from impinging against the front of the receiver, and thus softens felt recoil by eliminating the steel-against-steel banging of these parts. If you own any M1A, you really need this inexpensive buffer.

Recently, I received one of the first production versions of Springfield's new 16-inch M1A carbines, which came with

the large name, "SOCOM 16" stamped into the side of the operating slide forward of the receiver. Although the carbine came with the new XS 24-7 sights, it did not have any M1913 rails on the forend, but these are reportedly being planned. It also had no tactical sling, but I tested those by Boonie Packer and Wilderness Tactical on the carbine, and found both to work well, although they had to be modified to fit the gun.

On the LER rail mount, we tested a half-dozen optics including those from Aimpoint, Trijicon, Eotech, Leupold and Meprolight, using A.R.M.S. M1913 Throw-Lever Mounts, Leupold QD Mounts, and the new Aimpoint Comp mounts from World Wide Ordnance, and I found all of them to fit fine. Unlike some copies, A.R.M.S. ThrowLever Mounts use a protective steel pad to prevent damage to the alloy rail.

I tried every M1913 rail panel I have, but all of them are so high as to interfere with the open sights. Someone needs to design a solid low profile rail cover that remains below sight level.

### Other Accessories

With regard to M1913 rails for the SOCOM 16, MilSpec rails can be had from A.R.M.S., and Mounting Solutions Plus, and these can be cut to desired length and mounted on the sides and bottom of the standard stock. Both Springfield and A.R.M.S. also make M1913 receiver mounts for the M14/M1A, and on these can be mounted any number of conventional optics including night vision. These mounts are semi-permanent installations, and add roughly 1/2 pound to the weight of the gun.



*Here the Eotech red reticle sight is mounted on the forward rail of the SOCOM 16.*



*Leupold's 2.5X Scout Scope was used at longer ranges and was also used to shoot test groups.*



*Trijicon's new Tri-Power worked well on the SOCOM 16's forward rail and offers a pin-point chevron reticle.*



*The XS 24-7 tritium-powered front sight comes standard on the SOCOM 16. The unique muzzle brake is integral with the gas cylinder lock and directs gas out top and side holes after pushing the muzzle forward.*



## ACCURACY CHART/.308 CARTRIDGE

### SOCOM 16 With Leupold 2X Scout Scope

	Muzzle Vel.	Small Group	Large Group	Average
Black Hills 168 gr. Match	2474 fps	2.02"	2.63"	2.38"
Federal 168 gr. Match	2486 fps	1.97"	2.56"	2.29"
Hornady 110 gr.TAP	2893 fps	2.18"	2.67"	2.51"
GI 150 gr. ball	2611 fps	4.07"	4.22"	4.14"

### AR-10 Carbine With Leupold 3-9X MR/T Sniper Scope

	Muzzle Vel.	Small Group	Large Group	Average
Black Hills 168 gr. Match	2488 fps	1.64"	1.91"	1.86"
Federal 168 gr. Match	2502 fps	1.48"	2.03"	1.74"
Hornady 110 gr.TAP	2911 fps	1.73"	2.18"	1.98"
GI 150 gr. ball	2619 fps	2.74"	2.98"	2.86"

Five 3-Shot Bench Rest Groups Using Pro Chrono Le. Elev: 7000', Temp: 84\*, Humid: 32%



### The AR-10 Carbine

What is it they say? What goes around comes around? Well, the .308 Winchester-caliber AR-10 is back and bigger than ever to again compete against the M14/M1A, and with a new MilSpec flattop AR-10 Carbine from the new ArmaLite. Since this new carbine is pretty much the equivalent of Springfield's SOCOM 16 carbine, a comparison of the two systems is in order.

Using the proven direct gas system devised by Eugene Stoner, the AR-10's bolt and bolt carrier are the piston and cylinder of the AR-10. Since these two parts travel the full length of the action, the operating principle of the AR-10 can perhaps best be described as long stroke piston and cylinder via direct gas.

Unlike the early Stoner/Armalite AR-10, the new Armalite version has been re-designed to use a modified M14 magazine, one of the best box magazines in the world. Other than its caliber, this magazine is the only real thing the AR-10 has in common with the M1A family. Although its straight-line stock design is now considered conventional, it remains radically different from the traditional stock design of the M1A/M14.

Although the AR-10 is measurably larger than its M16/AR-15 type descendant, the wide use of aircraft alloy keeps the weight down to roughly the same as the Springfield SOCOM 16 and Scout/Squad carbines, even in light of the latest development for the AR-10 Carbine. This

is a special Selective Integrated Rail (S.I.R.) System developed expressly for the AR-10 Carbine by A.R.M.S., Inc. After having been purchased by the Canadian Military, the AR-10 Carbine is being tested by the U.S. Army in a selective fire version with the new S.I.R. System.

Having been fortunate to acquire one of the first S.I.R. systems (outside the military) for the AR-10 Carbine, I ordered one of the carbines for a T&E. My sample came in a post-ban configuration with fixed stock and a muzzle brake in place of a standard A2 type flash suppressor. Since the AR-10 S.I.R. System is made only in the military model, I had to special order the carbine without any provisions for a standard handguard. This deletion included the delta ring assembly and front handguard cap. The special S.I.R. System went on almost exactly like any other, and was a very precise fit. With it, I mounted the new A.R.M.S. #40-A 300-Meter Low-Profile Rear Sight, and later a prototype Armalite Folding Front Sight.

### AR-10 Add-Ons

Using A.R.M.S. ThrowLever Rings, I mounted virtually all of the optics tested on the SOCOM 16 on the AR-10, plus the Leupold Medium Range Tactical (MR/T) 3-9X42mm Sniper Scope. Identical in every way to the Leupold TS-30A2 Scope made for U.S. Special Forces, this 30mm illuminated-reticle

## SPECIFICATIONS

	Springfield SOCOM 16	ArmaLite AR-10 Carbine
<b>Caliber:</b>	.308 Win. (7.62x51mm NATO).	.308 Win. (7.62x51mm NATO).
<b>Muzzle Velocity:</b>	2500 fps.	2500 fps.
<b>System of Operation:</b>	Short stroke gas piston, semi-automatic.	Long stroke piston via direct gas.
<b>Barrel Length:</b>	16 inches.	16 inches.
<b>Rate of Twist:</b>	4 grooves, 1-in-10 inch RHT.	4 grooves, 1-in-10 inch RHT.
<b>Overall Length:</b>	37 inches.	37 inches.
<b>Weight:</b>	(gun alone) 8 pounds.	varies with accessories
<b>Feed Device:</b>	5-, 10- or 20-shot M14 magazine.	10- or 20-shot box magazine.
<b>Sights:</b>	(front) Protected post with tritium bar. (rear) Protected Ghost Ring adjustable for W/E.	Protected post adj. for elevation. Protected aperture adj. for W/E.
<b>Stock Furniture:</b>	GI black synthetic.	GI black synthetic.
<b>Finish:</b>	MilSpec Parkerized.	MilSpec hard anodized.



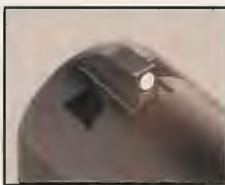
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*The AR-10 Carbine was equipped with a retractable ModStock from VLTOR. This excellent stock carries just about all the spare batteries you'll need, and is now "pre-ban" legal.*



*Here the Leupold CQ/T equipped AR-10 Carbine has the VLTOR A1 fixed stock, which also carries spare batteries. It proved far superior to the issue fixed stock.*



*The new AR-10 ARM-TEC pivoting butt stock helped keep the muzzle on target. (below) Mr. Richard Swan, of A.R.M.S., checks out the AR-10 Carbine with his S.I.R. System high in the Rocky Mountains.*



*The AR-10 Carbine proved to be an outstanding .308 caliber carbine in reliability, accuracy and ergonomics. Those who like the AR-15 should love the AR-10.*



brand new variation of the ARM-TEC pivoting butt stock designed for it. Using a heavier pivot point than on the standard .223 caliber version and a new rubber non-slip butt pad, this stock worked to keep the AR-10's muzzle down by the recoil pivoting the rear of the carbine upwards during each shot. This new stock should also work with the recoil of the 6.8mm SPC cartridge. The ARM-TEC stock will be available not only for retractable-stock carbines, but full stocks as well.

### Trigger Time

In checking all aspects of the SOCOM 16, and finding them to be totally satisfactory, I mounted my Leupold 2X Scout Scope on the carbine in order to test it for accuracy. Using several brands of .308 Winchester and 7.62x51mm NATO ammunition, I test fired the carbine at 100 yards. There were no malfunctions and I found the accuracy to be very good for a gun of this type.

The fairly conventional muzzle brake of the SOCOM 16 works by having a slightly larger chamber before the smaller exit hole and exhaust holes on the sides and top of the brake. After the bullet exits, the gasses behind it hit the constriction behind the hole, pushing the gun forward. At the same time, some of the gasses pass through the holes in the sides and top, and this also pushes the gun forward and the muzzle downward. The rest of the gas exits behind the bullet. All muzzle brakes work to some extent by pushing the gun forward by the speeding gasses hitting the forward sides of the ports, and

scope is a superb optic. Although it was made for longer eye relief, the MR/T is not compatible with the eye relief provided by the SOCOM 16's forward rail, so was only tested with the AR-10 Carbine.

Other accessories peculiar to the AR-10 included the new, improved VLTOR ModStock in fixed as well as the first retractable version, the new ERGO AR-10 pistol grip from Falcon Industries, and a Harris Bipod using the A.R.M.S. M1913 Rail Mount. ERGO also makes a variety of snap-on handguard covers and Excalibur Arms makes high quality "Dark Parts" sliding panels, both in various colors. I also tested various SureFire Tactical Weapon Lights including the M900 with its integral vertical foregrip, and both of the above-mentioned slings.

Another interesting accessory for the AR-10 Carbine is a

that of the SOCOM 16 actually pushes the muzzle down slightly below of sight.

Following the initial testing of the SOCOM 16, I disassembled the carbine and installed a M14/M1A buffer from Buffer Technologies. The resulting dampening of felt recoil was as noticeable as on the standard M1A. This is because this buffer prevents the steel-on-steel slamming of the operating slide into the front of the receiver during the rearward stroke. This inexpensive buffer is a MUST for any M1A or M14 rifle in my opinion.

In testing the SOCOM 16, I used both the 10-round M14 magazine furnished and pre-ban 20-round M14 magazines of my own. Whatever magazines you use with your M1A, you'll want to look at the Magpul for addition on all your magazines. Made of tough rubbery polymer, this device comes in several colors, and not only makes magazine acquisition easy, but also protects your magazines from damage.

**Say What?**

LOUD! If you didn't guess, the com-



*Springfield's SOCOM 16 is the company's shortest version of its M1A and can use many optical sights.*

bination of the SOCOM 16's short barrel and its muzzle brake add up to more muzzle blast, as is also the case with the Scout/Squad Carbine. When shooting the gun I used the new SafEars from Phillips & Rodgers. Fully adjustable, the speakers of SafEars can be adjusted high or low to amplify all sound, but never allow the decibels to go above a safe level, to protect your hearing.

The SOCOM 16's muzzle brake isn't the only thing that's loud and, without ear protection, the brake of the AR-10 Carbine is equally unpleasant. However, in the accuracy department, the AR-10 Carbine shined. This was probably due somewhat to the total free floating of the barrel provided by the

S.I.R. System and, since the S.I.R. does not touch the barrel, it never becomes too hot to handle. The other accuracy equation with the AR-10 Carbine was that the S.I.R. System allowed the Leupold MR/T to be mounted, and its 9X magnification certainly gave it an edge in this respect. Additionally, the AR-10 Carbine, like the SOCOM 16, never malfunctioned in any way.

If you're wondering about the fairness of this comparison, the S.I.R. System does give the AR-10 Carbine an advantage in being able to mount a conventional scope, but its flattop could also have done that by itself, and still accommodate the reflex sights. The S.I.R. also allows combination night-vision systems and lasers. Adding a side scope-mount to the SOCOM 16 can add roughly a half-pound, and may clutter up the carbine.

The revival of the M14 by the U.S. Military has caused many to take another look at the M1A, but for those who might have thought it obsolete, you simply weren't looking. It remains one of the finest rifles in the world. Likewise is

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the case for the AR-10 Carbine that, like the AR-15, has become quite user friendly to those trained on the system, or who are inclined toward it, and therein lies the answer.

Valued for its simplicity and ruggedness, the M1A offers user friendly operation, ease of inspection and clearing, a conventional stock design and a very positive magazine locking system. The AR-10 features controls identical to the AR-15/M16 family and amounts to a larger version but in .308 caliber. With its flattop receiver, the AR-10 also comes with the ideal platform for mounting virtually any sighting system. Both of these fine weapons still have their place in the Military, not to mention law enforcement. Like me, many will want to own both, and that's what being a

Free American is all about.

### This Just In

By the time you read this, Springfield will offer a new tactical version of the SOCOM 16 with three short M1913 ("Picatinny") rails mounted on the front of the stock at 3 -, 6 -, and 9 o'clock. These rails will accommodate lights, lasers, sling swivels and a bipod.

For information on all of their superb 1911 pistols, and M1A rifles and carbines, contact Springfield Armory, Inc., Dept. SOF, 420 West Main St., Geneseo, IL 61254, 800 680-6866 [springfieldarmory.com](http://springfieldarmory.com).

For information on their extensive line of semi-automatic rifles, contact ArmaLite, Inc., Dept. SOF, 745 South Handord St., Geneseo, IL 61254, 309 944-6939. ✕

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# THE WINNERS ARE IN!

## 15TH PRIZE OVERALL



**"Hooah!"**  
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Central Highlands,  
Afghanistan)

**by Maj. Paul Helms**

[ODA 2025, Co B, 1st SF Bn, 20th SFG]

Paul wins a set of Dillon  
HP1 Electronic Hearing  
Protectors, and custom  
Hornady ammunition



## 16TH PRIZE OVERALL



**"Gentlemen, Your  
Herky Bird  
Awaits"**

**by MSGT**

**John Wesley,  
Oklahoma Air  
National Guard**

John wins an Emerson CQC-7 Tanto with  
T coating and 50/50 serrations



# FREEDOM PHOTO CONTEST

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## 17TH PRIZE OVERALL



**"OK Gunny, What's Broke Now..."**  
(submitted by Herman Gunter III; photographer unknown)

Going to L/CPL Peace is an Emerson "Commander" folder with T coating and G10 handles



## 18TH PRIZE OVERALL



**"Hai Jolly Rides Again"**  
(Airman plays military tourist)  
by SSGT Mario Reyes, USAF

Mario wins an Emerson Police Utility Folder with satin finish and 50/50 serrations





# SOF PROVING ground

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*Springfield's X-Treme Duty Pistol Takes A Big Bite!*

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY GARY PAUL JOHNSTON

Originally designed and produced as a compact pistol, the Springfield XD series has evolved into everything from a sub-compact to a full-blown target model. In between is perhaps the most exciting version of all. Called the XD LE Tactical, this pistol with its longer-than-standard slide, may be one of the finest duty pistols ever. Let's take a closer look at what makes this and other XD pistols tick.

Incorporating a number of proven features, the XD has

blended some of the best pistol design ingredients there are. With a computer numerically controlled (CNC)-machined slide of high-grade steel, this and other steel components are Bruniral Coated to a matte black during heat treatment, for a lifetime of hard use and rust protection.

Housed in dovetail cuts in the slide are the XD's steel front and rear sights. At the rear of the slide are cocking serrations that are just right for proper purchase, and it also has three



*The Insight Technology M3 Illuminator light is equally at home on the XD's M1913 style frame rail.*



(above, left) The XD Tactical uses a special full-length, solid guide-rod to add weight and balance to the gun. Here the take-down lever is seen in the up position with the slide locked back.



This is another safety feature. (above, right) Field stripping the custom Springfield XD is still totally simple, but its tighter match fit is obvious.

## Springfield XD 45 LE Tactical

### SPECIFICATIONS

<b>Caliber:</b>	.45 GAP
<b>Velocity:</b>	850 fps.
<b>Operation:</b>	Short recoil.
<b>Type of Fire:</b>	Single action, semi-automatic.
<b>Barrel Length:</b>	6"
<b>Overall Length:</b>	8.25"
<b>Weight:</b>	32 oz.
<b>Feed Device:</b>	10-shot box magazine.
<b>Safety:</b>	Trigger, grip, firing pin, and out-of-battery safeties.
<b>Sights:</b>	(front) Fixed steel combat. (rear) Drift adjustable for W/E.
<b>Finish:</b>	Matte black Bruniral and black polymer.

such grooves at the front of the slide. Near the left front of the slide is a vertically angled cutout to allow the takedown lever to swing upward for disassembly.

On the top of the slide at the rear of the ejection port is a pivoting loaded-chamber indicator. Best verified by feel, the indicator can also be viewed to let the operator know there is a cartridge in the chamber. In the rear of the slide is a cocking indicator, which also protrudes so it may be checked in the same way.

Inside the steel slide is a conventional barrel similar to that pioneered by SIG and used by Glock, S&W, FN and many others. The XD's matte black polymer frame has a heavy-duty dust cover portion that incorporates an M1913 style rail. Insite Technology and SureFire produce fast-attach-

able tactical lights for use on such rails. The modular insert that houses the mechanism also contains full-length steel rails to guide the slide. At the rear of the frame is a steel grip-safety that also locks the slide unless depressed, and the conventional-looking magazine release can be activated from either side. Unlike some polymer frame pistols, the XD also points naturally in the hand, so the sights are aligned when the pistol is brought to eye level.

Made of heavy-duty, nickel-plated steel, the high-capacity magazine not only has great lubricity and rust protection, but also falls free every time the magazine release is depressed. About 50% of the release is protected from accidental depression by the frame. Beretta magazines will also work in the XD. Initially offered in black, the polymer frame is also available in OD green.

### Unusual Trigger

With its own trigger-unlocking device, the XD's trigger feels like one of the best double-action triggers I've ever used on an autopistol, but it's technically not a double action. The sear holds the linear striker out of battery with a firing pin safety block as a backup safety. As with most double-action autopistols, the XD's mechanism must be reset by the movement of the slide.

Pressing the trigger results in a significant amount of spring-loaded take-up before the firing pin safety is depressed and then the sear. This feels exactly like a true double action, and it is just as safe. The XD also has an out-of-battery safety engineered so that the disconnecter is closely timed to prevent the gun from firing if the barrel is even slightly unlocked due to the slide not being fully forward.

### ACCURACY CHART/.45 GAP CARTRIDGE

	Velocity	Small Group	Large Group	Average
Speer 185 gr. FMJ	1048 fps	2.03"	2.36"	2.19"
Speer 185 gr. JHP Gold Dot	1057 fps	1.97"	2.41"	2.21"
Federal 185 JHP PD	1051 fps	1.88"	2.11"	1.99"
Winchester 175 Frangible	1064 fps	2.16"	2.52"	2.38"
Winchester 230 gr. JHP Ranger	858 fps	2.21"	2.61"	2.43"

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Until this year the XD was available only in 9mm, .40 S&W and .357 SIG. That has now changed in a big way.

### The XD in .45 GAP

Following Glock's success with its new .45 Glock Automatic Pistol (GAP) cartridge, Springfield quickly saw the advantage of this new cartridge and began a program to test it in the XD pistol. Incidentally, the cartridge first emerged as the .45 GLOCK, but after experiencing pressure trouble relating to its large pistol primer, the round was redesigned with a small pistol primer as the .45 GAP.

Conceived and designed by Springfield's own world-champion shooter, Rob Latham, one of the first XD pistols was a XD Match version. Beginning life as a long slide, this gun was refitted with a BAR-STO Match Grade Stainless Steel barrel in .45 GAP and a new recoil spring system. In the wake of the success of the competition XD in .45 GAP, Springfield went into production of not only this gun, but also the .45 GAP in the XD LE Tactical model. The balance of the XD 45 LE Tactical is truly superb, making it a professional-grade pistol.

### Tactical Weapon Lights

Upon receiving one of the first XD 45LE Tactical Pistols in .45 GAP, I found it to be identical in feel and function to any other XD Tactical. It should be, as it's exactly the same size. It also accepts tactical pistol lights from both Insight Technology and SureFire, and I even tried it with the new SureFire X200. With either light mounted I found that the Dual Retention Holster, from Michael's of Oregon, would accommodate the XD Tactical. Springfield reportedly also has a holster for the XD and others are sure to follow.

### Takedown Safety

Except for being longer, the XD Tactical .45 GAP performed without surprises. It proved smooth in operation and in field-stripping, and here there is yet another safety feature.

In order to disassemble the slide group, the slide must first be locked to the rear. In doing so, any chambered cartridge is ejected. With the slide locked to the rear, the disassembly lever is then rotated upward. Releasing the slide stop then allows the slide to move forward and off the frame.

### Trigger Time

Shooting the XD Tactical .45 GAP

proved quite pleasurable. Because of its longer slide, the pistol seems to soak up more of the recoil. Feeding and ejecting all .45 GAP rounds tested proved flawless, and the double-action style trigger was excellent. Accuracy was also excellent and is illustrated in the accompanying chart. Oh, yes, and the .45 GAP offers every bit of the performance as the .45 ACP with only slightly higher pressure.

What about ammo? Speer led the pack in making 185-grain FMJ and JHP .45 GAP ammunition in its Lawman and Gold Dot series, and Winchester followed with four loads. These include a 175 gr. Ranger frangible, 185 gr. JHP, a 230 gr. JHP Ranger and a 230 gr. STHP. Federal is now also on board with a 200 gr. TMJ American Eagle load and a 185 gr. JHP in its Personal Defense line. With the popularity of the XD Pistol you can expect to see other ammunition makers get on the .45 GAP bandwagon soon.

If you thought that the Springfield XD was "aimed" at the American Law Enforcement and personal protection market, you were right, and it's at a price you can afford. Whether you're looking for a simple, safe and reliable pistol of the highest quality for personal protection or duty, or for serious competition, check out Springfield's new XD pistols in .45 GAP. For more information, contact Springfield Armory, Dept. SOF, 420 West Main St., Geneseo, IL 61254; phone: 800-680-6866. Most importantly, remember that if your Founding Fathers did not want you to own guns, IT WAS THE BEST KEPT SECRET OF THE 19th CENTURY. ☞

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## The Incredible Hulk

Continued from page 41

and ground combat operations, we had no choice but develop a high-speed assault amphibious vehicle."

The justification was simple. When you carry non-amphibian vehicles like Bradleys, Strykers or light-armored vehicles, LAVs, on LCACs, you can't get other things like tanks and artillery ashore quickly. That's why the EFV is so desirable. It can transport up to 18 combat-equipped Marines 25 miles from ship to shore at speeds of up to 38 mph in the water, three times faster than AAVs. SSgt Shaw has had "Prototype-1" up to 42 mph across the surface of the water. How does it handle? "It's like driving a giant jet ski. There are two ballistic doors on the rear of the vehicle that protect two 23" Jacuzzi water jets that move more than 100,000 gallons of water per minute out the back of this vehicle," said Shaw as we climbed inside for a close look at the improvements.

"When the driver advances the throttle in the high-speed configuration, and that second turbo kicks in, it sits you back in the seat," said Shaw. It

sounds like a cigarette-class speedboat in the water.

The first of the new EFVs won't be fielded until 2007 at the earliest. SSgt Shaw says some of the first crewmembers are still in middle school. Those who will take delivery of the last EFVs to be produced haven't been born yet, but all of them will be afforded a greater level of protection in the new \$8 million fighting vehicles.

"It's tremendously upgraded," said Shaw as we took a closer look at one of the prototypes, "but certain aspects of the armor protection are classified." When an PG round hits a troop carrier, whether it's a Bradley Fighting Vehicle, Stryker infantry carrier, or Amphibian Assault Vehicle, there occurs what is called "spalling," the bouncing around of hot, molten metal on the inside of the vehicle. This is what kills U.S. Army soldiers and Marines. But, there is material in the ballistic steel and ceramic armor that reduces the amount of "plasma jet" that squirts inside the EFV to a pinhole. Sheets of secret composite material bolted to the frame of the vehicle act like a baseball glove and catch most of the molten metal before it can kill or maim anyone.

Pointing to some of the electronics



Dale H. Cooper

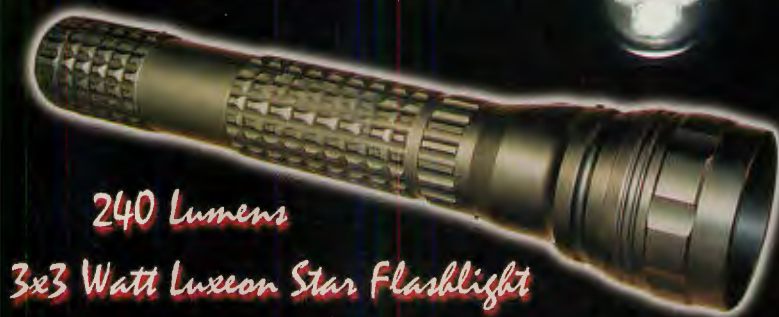
Marine Staff Sergeant Sam Shaw, a veteran tracker, in the track commander's seat on right side of the new amphibian assault vehicle. The "TC" can fight the vehicle from inside the air-conditioned hull, and no longer be exposed to enemy fire.

available to the crew, Shaw said this vehicle represents the next step in maneuver warfare. "This is the Marine Corps' shock and awe," said Shaw as he

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demonstrated some of the onboard software available to the vehicle commander who sits next to the gunner.

"We have scrolling map screens from real-time battlefield imagery to let us know what's out in front of us before we cross the horizon and head inland," said Shaw. That's a real plus if the strong point happens to be a main battle tank. The days of storming across the black sands of Iwo Jima are over for Leathernecks. If they detect danger, they can avoid it or call fire on it with systems in the EFV.

How does the Expeditionary Fighting Vehicle stack up against the Bradley or Stryker?

"I don't want to get into the Army-Marine thing," laughed Shaw, "but I think we've bought the Cadillac. The main difference between theirs and ours is we're fully amphibious and we've got a bigger main gun, a 30mm Bushmaster auto-chain cannon."

Sergeant Jason Acord crewed a C-7 section command variant of the AAV7A1 with 1st Battalion, 7th Marines in Iraq, and he likes what he sees. "I think it's going to be leaps and



courtesy USMC Museum, Quantico, Virginia

*The LVT-2 amphibious vehicle transport, the "Grandfather" of the current amphibian assault vehicles, mounting an M1919A4 .30 caliber and a .50 Ma Deuce machine gun, on Iwo Jima during WWII.*

bounds better than the vehicle I drove in Iraq." Acord doesn't believe the current breed of assault vehicle is suited to urban combat. He told *Leatherneck* he felt very vulnerable in the narrow streets of Baghdad when he started taking sniper fire and couldn't depress his weapons system. He says he experienced the same feeling in Kosovo. But that fear is going to disappear for him and other trackers in the not too distant future.

Acord thinks the "The sheer size of the Expeditionary Fighting Vehicle

is gonna frighten other folks on the battlefield, and the firepower it will bring is just unreal."

Other veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom agree. Lance Corporal Edward J. Castleberry and Lance Corporal Kenneth D. Koonce christened the new fighting vehicle a stone's throw from Quantico at the Worth Avenue Technology Center in Woodbridge, Virginia on 10 September 2003. In keeping with Marine Corps tradition, Castleberry, a crew chief with 2nd Amphibious Assault Battalion at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, christened the new fighting vehicle with one bottle of seawater from the Atlantic Ocean — while Koonce, an AAV crewman from Camp Pendleton, California, christened the EFV with another bottle of salt water from the Pacific.

After the ceremony, the two trackers said the EFV is "awesome, absolutely years more advanced than what we have now."

*Dale B. Cooper, a frequent contributor to SOF, was "embedded" with the 1/5 during the unit's drive to Bagdad. ✕*

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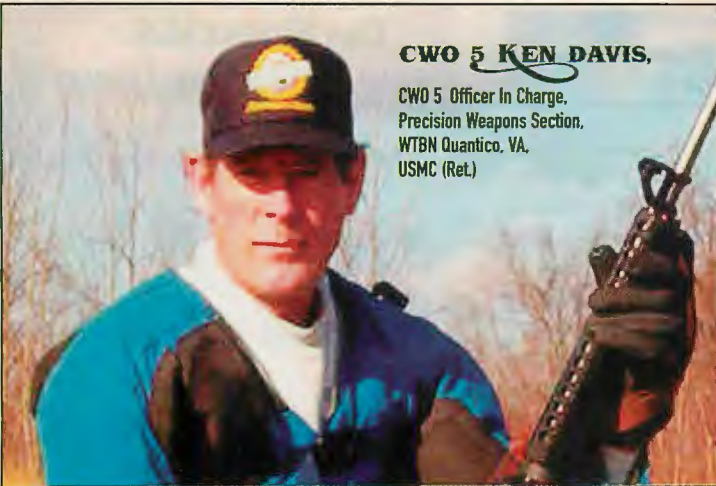
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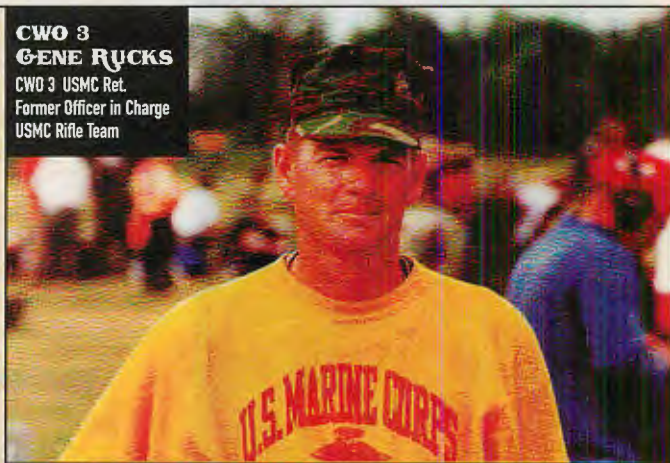
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## Naked In Nairobi

Continued from page 59

was wide open to terrorist attack, especially the apocalyptic kind. Like 9/11, the destructive lessons of the 1998 al Qaeda bombings of our embassies here and in Tanzania evidently have been forgotten. The hotel was bordered on three sides by public thoroughfare, and vehicles of every description passed by. What caused me to seek an audience with the hotel's security director was the casualness of the guards at the vehicle check point that was only 50 yards from the main entrance. In addition, although they mirrored the wheel wells and the undersides of vehicles and scoped out car trunks, they never examined the contents of delivery trucks that parked proximate to the building. At the rear, where the health club, swimming pool and dining areas were located, a large public park known to be a bandit's roost at night, snuggled up to the 12-foot stone-and-mortar wall. Short-range floodlights illuminated the perimeter, but the rest of the bush, like the park's environs, were cloaked in darkness. At night, they had an unarmed man on the roof with a flashlight to sound the alarm.

I pointed out these discrepancies and the hotel's vulnerability to power assault, IED explosives and grenade attack, and at least the security director respectfully listened. A few days later, I observed that it was business as usual — the guards were still not searching the trucks and people walked less than a stone's/grenade's throw from the rear wall. I hate it when someone else has responsibility, even by proxy, for my safety.

### SOF Readers Will Love the Place

Nairobi is nevertheless an intriguing city and the near-constant element of risk gives the adventure traveler and professionals who go in harms way, a certain rush. Don't look for trouble, but anticipate it. It's not hard to find, particularly if you get lazy — when frequently it will find you. My tenure in Nairobi was limited, but even while "naked" there I truly loved the experience. Where else in the world can you get a sleek and powerful Cheetah to cover your six.

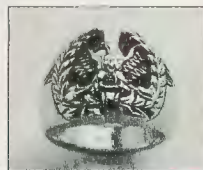
Mike Iron is the nome de guerre of a former Marine and federal agent who specialized in counter-terrorism and tactical law enforcement. ✕

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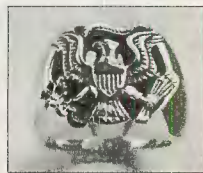
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Marine



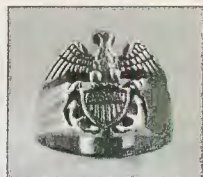
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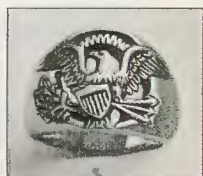
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## Valhalla In The Rockies

Continued from page 22

### Inside Valhalla

Upon entering Valhalla, one sees a luxurious lobby complemented by a huge fireplace and pro-shop. However, just behind one door is the entrance to myriad shooting situations — from a conventional square range to a scenario house that can quickly escalate from simple to relatively complex situations. However, none of the problem-solving experiences is designed to defeat the student, but rather to sharpen his or her skill levels and confidence.

On the second level of Valhalla is a computerized square range with multiple targets that move forward and backward. Fully automated, Valhalla's square-range static lanes can be programmed to present a variety of courses of fire for each shooter or can be used for traditional target and weapon practice. Here a student can engage the targets with live ammunition from a static position and partake in 360-degree shooting using AirSoft guns, while walking back and forth and taking cover in between a variety of targets that move in different sequence. All Valhalla indoor ranges use only reduced-lead-hazard or non-toxic frangible bullets in order to reduce health and injury risks to guests and staff.

After basic marksmanship and gun-handling is covered in class, students move to the square range to practice deploying their weapons from the holster, shooting, moving, engaging multiple targets, proper use of cover, reloading and a variety of other dynamic shooting techniques before they move on to the scenario rooms.

### Scenario House

In another section of the building are scenarios filled with non-combatant mannequins and threat targets that suddenly emerge as the student passes by hidden infrared trip mechanisms that also activate flashing lights and sound effects. Called the Scenario House, this section is the centerpiece of the Valhalla Facility. Although Valhalla offers its facilities for specialized law-enforcement training, it's main focus is on civilian-training recreational shooting, catering to those who might not otherwise be inclined to enjoy them. This not only includes those people who live in a state that is politically unfriendly to shooting sports, but also in other countries.

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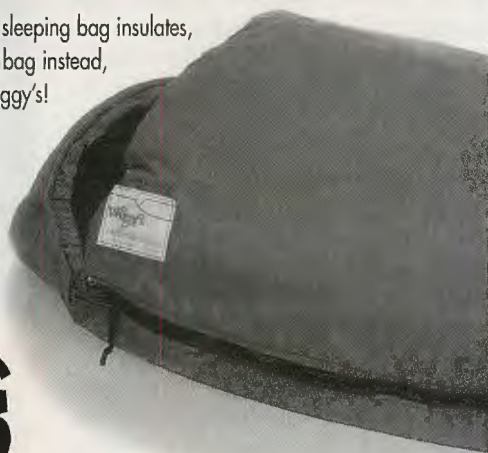
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In the Scenario House, guests may shoot for entertainment or education under the supervision of the staff. Students can even engage each other with proper safety equipment using Soft-Air, or Air Munitions training pistols. Scenario rooms include a fully furnished house with master bedroom, child's bedroom, kitchen, utility room and hallways. Other rooms include a nightclub and bar, offices, a subway station, magazine stand, convenient store, park, and industrial settings. There is even a first-class section and cockpit from a real 737 aircraft. Using a specially built automobile simulator, a traffic stop/vehicle defense scenario is also part of the shoot house.

## The San Juan Connection

For both recreational shooting and specialized training outside the confines of Valhalla, Elk Mountain Resort utilizes the famous San Juan Range just 10 miles to the north. Owned and operated by well-known shooter and instructor, Paul Miller, the San Juan Range is renowned for its annual American Handgunner Challenge, as well as its famous Siege at San Juan Cowboy Action Shooting Match. The San Juan Range offers more than two-dozen first-class outdoor pistol and rifle ranges, including a canyon trail walk with multiple targets. Here, in tactical training courses, the pistol is carried as backup in order to transition in case the rifle malfunctions.

Recently I toured Valhalla while a three-day tactical course was being given for local law enforcement agencies. During the class I witnessed high-quality instruction, along with optimum safety during a number of decision-making tactical scenarios and, overall, the officers' performance was excellent. Several of them were impressed by all that they learned during the course.

Valhalla Shooting Club and Training Center offers the experience of a lifetime with any pistol, although Glock pistols are preferred. For those who crave a one-of-a-kind recreational or training shooting experience there's nothing else yet like it on the face of the earth. ☒

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## "The Plane, The Plane!"

Continued from page 22

flights have sky marshals on board. This is because if only one sky marshal shows up for a flight, he/she is not allowed to fly without a partner. I, for one, want my flight to land on a runway and you can be sure I'll take action to guarantee this, if it's ever necessary.

Airline passengers must remain as alert on board a plane as they are going about their everyday business. On the ground, if they see something suspicious, they should call 9-1-1. If they are alerted in the air, they should notify a flight attendant immediately so that he/she can notify any sky marshals on board—but what if no sky marshals are present, or what if they are overcome?

First, have a plan that fits your capabilities. That's the objective of the training offer at at Valhalla.

For dealing with life-and-death problems, there are options like one I call the Bic Defense. I always carry a Surefire Tactical Light on my carry-on luggage, so I can see if the lights go out, or if the plane had to make an emergency landing at night. As a retired police officer, I also used to carry a pair of handcuffs, but this is no longer allowed. No one can self-defend if they can't see and any SureFire light will take care of that, leaving your other hand free to do what is necessary to save the lives of other passengers and crew.

In the wake of the mass murder in Spain and the following election there, word is that terrorists may try a similar attack in the United States. Either way, it will come sooner or later. Whenever they can do it they will, and airplanes are still reported to be their weapon of choice. We must all remain alert, probably for the rest of our lives.

If students at Valhalla wish, they can schedule Airplane Defense Training while at the facility. Whatever your defensive training needs, Valhalla can assist you in meeting them. —GPJ



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# Irrelevant Arrogance

BY OLIVER NORTH

WASHINGTON, D.C. — In September 1931, when the Japanese Imperial Army marched into Manchuria, the Nationalist Government of China, a signatory to the League of Nations charter, called on the international community for help.

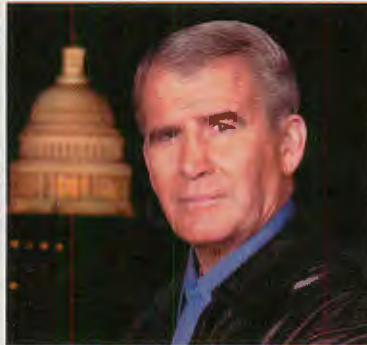
The League arrogantly pronounced that the aggression would stop because it had taken the matter “under consideration.” Tokyo’s response to this vacillation was to seize Shanghai. The Chinese again appealed to the League of Nations. While the diplomats dithered, Tokyo renamed Manchuria, set up a puppet regime in its capital and declared that Japanese troops were staying. The League of Nations responded by censuring Tokyo and demanding the withdrawal of Japanese troops. The Japanese promptly withdrew from the League, declaring its deliberations to be “irrelevant.” World War II had begun — though it took the Europeans another seven years to understand.

This sad, but accurate historical lesson in arrogance and irrelevance is pertinent to what transpired at the League’s successor — the United Nations — this week. On Tuesday, 21 Sept., the president of the United States stood before the U.N. General Assembly and challenged the world body to try — once again — to be relevant in a world threatened by an evil even more dangerous than fascism: fanatical terrorism.

In a stirring tutorial, Bush recounted both the threat and horror of what now emanates from much of the Middle East: “Eventually there is no safe isolation from terror networks or failed states that shelter them, or weapons of mass destruction.” He then offered an account of the sacrifice in treasure and lives being made by the United States and a handful of allies to protect the innocent from the bloody hands of terrorists and generously help those less fortunate than we. Unfortunately, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, the erratic and secretive leader of this multibillion dollar global organization, wasn’t listening.

In his opening remarks, Annan — who declared the U.S.-led overthrow of Saddam Hussein to be “illegal” — hectoring world leaders to “start from the principle that no one is above the law and no one should be denied its protection.” He went on to describe his ethical universe: “In Iraq, we see civilians massacred in cold blood ... and we have seen Iraqi prisoners disgracefully abused.” Apparently to Annan, the ghastly, systematic beheading of innocent civilians is morally equivalent to an isolated case of prisoner abuse at Abu Ghraib. Ironically, as he was drawing this frightening parallel, a radical Islamic website was posting the horrific images of Jack Armstrong being beheaded.

Sadly, few in the U.S. media took the time to focus on the hubris or ethical inconsistencies in Annan’s lecture. Instead, the potentates of the press rushed to cite the differences between the president’s challenge to the world body and the approach offered by his rival, Sen. John Kerry. The day before Bush spoke to the General Assembly, the Democrat nominee



was feted at New York University, where he demanded that in Iraq “the U.N. must play a central role” and pledged that if he is elected he will “recruit troops from our friends and allies for a U.N. protection force.” Who does Kerry want to lead such a force? Kofi Annan?

Since none of the reporters covering the Kerry campaign bothered to ask that question at the candidate’s press conference this week, we don’t know — but before anyone offers the U.N. Secretary-

General the mantle of leadership for rebuilding Iraq or fighting terrorism, it would be wise to examine his record.

In March 2003, prior to the commencement of Operation Iraqi Freedom, I reported from Kuwait that “senior U.S. military officials were concerned that Saddam Hussein was using cash from the U.N. Oil for Food program to buy votes in the Security Council.” The New York Times immediately trashed the charge — and anonymous sources at the United Nations claimed the allegation was “preposterous” and “unfounded.”

But we now know better. Since then, we have learned that cash from the Oil for Food program — administered directly from Annan’s office by one of his most trusted aides, Benon V. Sevan, was used by Saddam for everything but food. The Iraqi dictator used the U.N. provided funds to buy weapons, finance terror and enrich officials in the Communist Party of Slovakia, the Palestinian Liberation Organization and political figures in France, Libya, Syria, Indonesia and Russia. Despite the presence of U.N. administrators in Baghdad and “auditors” at the U.N. headquarters in New York, Saddam was able to offer “coupons” worth millions of barrels of Iraqi crude oil to “friendly officials,” who were allowed to sell them on the market and pocket huge profits.

Did Annan, his cronies or family reap any of this windfall? We don’t know because the U.N. Secretary-General — so willing to lecture President Bush about the “rule of law” — is accountable to no one. And, since U.N. activities are not subject to the laws or the scrutiny of member states, he has been able to effectively stonewall an independent audit of the Oil for Food program. Meanwhile, Annan stands above the fray, offering little but rhetoric for dealing with the threat of Iranian nuclear weapons or the barbaric genocide taking place in the Sudan.

This arrogance flies in the face of Kerry’s call to give the United Nations greater say in how we protect ourselves from terror — much less any suggestion that American troops should again don blue berets. Doing either or both won’t make the world body more relevant to present realities. Dealing with corruption at the United Nations might. ✕

To find out more about Oliver North, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com).

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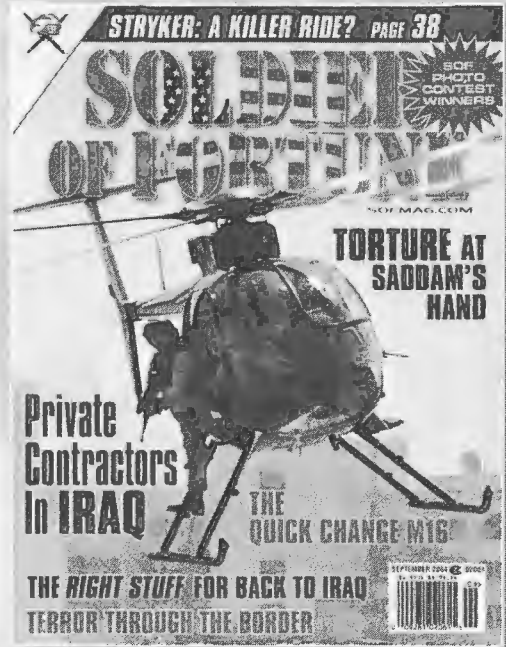


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